THE TIMES

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Soviet plan threatens to divide allies

Saddam plays for time but gets until tonight

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE allies have given Iraq until this evening to withdraw from Kuwait, France indicated yesterday. The issue would be resolved by force if Baghdad did not announce a pullout within 24 hours, the foreign minister, Roland Dumas, said.

Iraq has so far failed to respond to Soviet proposals to end the Gulf war, prompting speculation in Moscow and the West that President Saddam Hussein is playing for time.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, had been expected in Moscow with an answer today. But Vitali Churkin, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, said he was now not sure whether he would return in person. The Soviet Union was awaiting a speedy response, through the Iraqi embassy, by telex or by any other means.

The Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, hoped Iraq would respond very clearly and very soon. But he added: "We have to wait until tomorrow." Dr Velayati met President Mitterrand yesterday and said afterwards that both Iran and France were determined to "put an end to this disaster". M Dumas told a cabinet meeting that Saddam must "choose clearly and without further delay between withdrawal from Kuwait and continuation of the war". The French commander in the Gulf indicated, however, that a land war would not begin before Friday.

The Soviet proposals, officially still confidential, are said to call for a three-stage approach: an Iraqi declaration of withdrawal, a ceasefire and withdrawal. The idea has received broad world support, which yesterday threatened to open a rift between the United States and its European and Arab allies. After intense diplomatic exchanges, Britain made clear that it was not rejecting the plan, but found it inadequate.

The White House appeared increasingly isolated in its hard-line approach. Moscow accused the Americans of going beyond the United Nations mandate and trying to destroy the Iraqi regime. European leaders urged acceptance of the plan, with Italy warmly welcoming it as fully in line with the UN resolutions. The Maghreb countries called for an immediate ceasefire, and the UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said the initiative presented a unique opportunity to avert a ground offensive. He suggested that Iraq might need another day to respond.

The Soviet plan was outlined in London by the ambassador, Leonid Zamyatin, and his disclosure caused some embarrassment to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, since the West had promised to keep it secret.

Britain, like America, says the plan is unsatisfactory because it does not demand full Iraqi compliance with all UN resolutions. However, Mr Hurd did not dismiss it out of hand, and urged the Russians to try to modify it.

Britain believes that unless Iraq gives cast-iron guarantees of full compliance with all of the UN resolutions before a ceasefire, the coalition will have little leverage once the fighting stops.

Such fears were echoed at the UN, where Western diplomats said that if Iraq withdrew without agreeing to return prisoners of war or without recognising the UN resolution nullifying the annexation of Kuwait, it would be impossible to force Baghdad to make concessions once the shooting had stopped.

"The worst thing that could happen would be to have a ceasefire that leads to a lot of wrangling that needs a resumption of fighting," one diplomat said. Others drew parallels with the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Although the two sides agreed a ceasefire in 1988 it took two years, 15 rounds of talks, and Iraq's need for an ally after the invasion of Kuwait for it to relinquish occupied Iranian territory, abandon its claim to the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, and return prisoners of war.

One issue where Britain has taken a softer line than the White House is the question of Iraqi withdrawal. President Bush's advisers have insisted that the United States wants

Continued on page 24, col 6

PEACE PLAN

The main points of the Soviet peace plan are:

- **Stage One:** complete, *unconditional* Iraqi withdrawal. Baghdad to announce acceptance, begin withdrawal; ceasefire then *comes into force.*
- Moscow guarantees no attack on retreating Iraqis.
- **Stage Two:** reparations; annexation of Kuwait annulled; peace and security established in region.
- Issues such as prisoners-of-war to be discussed after withdrawal.
- All parties guarantee Iraq's territorial integrity.
- International community to deal with Arab-Israeli conflict. No Soviet promise to lift arms embargo on Iraq.

American response, page 2
Iran's army, page 3
Leading article and Letters, page 15
Strategy for fear, page 19

Sean Hick, one of four people charged with murder and belonging to the IRA, being escorted by armed policemen to the courtroom in the Dutch town of Roermond yesterday. His goggles were designed to prevent eye contact with the other prisoners. Report, page 24

US troops take 450 Iraqi PoWs

From REUTER IN RIYADH

HELICOPTER-borne American troops crossed the northern Saudi border yesterday to round up at least 450 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered after being blasted out of their bunkers by air attack, a US military spokesman reported.

Brigadier-General Richard Neal said the incident began at 11am London time and was continuing when he began his briefing four hours later. His description made clear that the clash was primarily an air attack by American helicopter gunships. US troops — referred to as "security forces" — landed only after 13 Iraqi bunkers were destroyed and the Iraqi soldiers had indicated they were ready to surrender, he said.

General Neal also reported that an American serviceman was killed and seven others were wounded in a separate ground clash with Iraqi troops at the border. He did not give the location of either incident.

The general said that allied planes flew more than 2,900 sorties in the previous 24 hours, keeping up their pounding of Iraqi forces in preparation for a possible ground assault. About a hundred of the air raids were aimed at Scud missile launchers and related targets.

When Iraq fired a Scud at Israel on Tuesday night, American planes in the area saw the missile rise up through the clouds. B52 heavy bombers later pounded the launch site, setting off explosions on the ground, General Neal said.

Sixty miles north of the Saudi border, American aircraft bombed a dug-in force of Iraqi armour and artillery, destroying 28 tanks, 20 lorries and three guns, the US spokesman reported.

The skirmish in which an American was killed and seven wounded began when US and Iraqi forces among the border came into view of each other and opened fire. General Neal said five Iraqi tanks were destroyed, seven Iraqis were captured and three American vehicles damaged. He said no Americans were hurt in the separate attack which netted the 450 Iraqi prisoners.

Labour leaks Rosyth closure documents

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TIMETABLE for planning and announcing the closure of the Rosyth naval base in Scotland was included in a series of Ministry of Defence documents leaked by the Labour leadership yesterday.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, whose Dunfermline East constituency includes Rosyth, disclosed a series of internal documents purporting to show the remit of the closure team, their proposed timetable and a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, chief flag officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland, which he said spelt out the cost, risks and implications of the closure plan.

Mr Brown told a Westminster press conference that with a closure team at Rosyth, a timetable for closure set down and a refusal to consider the economic, strategic and defence case against it, it was clear that the Rosyth workforce and personnel serving in the Gulf had been deceived over the real intentions behind the government's Options for Change review.

The defence ministry at first refused to comment on Mr Brown's detailed claims but later Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said that while it was not yet clear that Rosyth was going to close "we are certainly looking at that possibility."

The leaked paper set February 25 as the deadline for completion of a report by the Rosyth options study group, March 19 as the day when the Navy Board will receive a report for decision and March 28 as the day the decision will be approved by ministers.

Mr Hamilton, questioned on BBC radio 4's *The World at One*, said: "These are all confidential documents. I cannot comment on the particular timetable we have got here." He added, however, that it was "probably true" that Rosyth was the only base where a committee had been set up to discuss and present to ministers a timetable for closure.

The leaked letter from Vice-Admiral Livesay to Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, commander-in-chief of the naval home command, spoke of his deep and wide-ranging concerns about the possible closure and the associated savings measure. He wrote of potentially higher costs resulting in the support area and serious manpower implications in Rosyth and throughout Scotland and the North.

Mr Brown said the closure of Rosyth would have a devastating effect on the local economy. At risk were the thousands of jobs at the base and the related employment of 1,700 people in the local economy.

Tory council cuts poll tax

By RAY CLANCY

THE Conservative flagship Westminster city council yesterday announced a community charge of £176, almost £20 less than that for last year, when it had the second-lowest in England and Wales. Dame Shirley Porter, leader of the council, also announced that she would not be seeking re-election as Tory group leader.

The council was immediately accused of spending more on hanging baskets to decorate London and less on services for the elderly, homeless and poor.

Lady Porter: announced her retirement

Local authorities are currently agreeing charges for 1991/92 while Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, reviews local government finance amid expectations by many observers that he will announce in April plans to abolish the poll tax.

Some councils are still behind in collecting the first year of the unpopular charge, and others are taking fine decisions on budgets in order to avoid capping. The government this week announced that nine out of ten people have now made some contribution towards the poll tax, but the numbers paying in full vary widely between councils.

The Westminster charge is expected to be one of the lowest and is due to be approved by the full council on March 6. The controlling Conservatives claimed that good housekeeping and reductions in red tape had enabled the council to reduce the poll tax. Bill Griffiths, chairman of the finance committee, said that overheads had been cut in many departments and that £700,000 less would be spent on collecting the tax.

Halifax trims home loan rate

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE HALIFAX, Britain's largest building society, yesterday put pressure on the government and the Bank of England to cut base rates again by cutting mortgage rates for new borrowers by 0.75 per cent to 13.75 per cent. It promised the same cut for half a million existing borrowers if base rates fell.

Jim Birrell, the society's chief executive, said: "We want to give new borrowers the benefit of lower interest rates as soon as possible and set a clear lead for existing borrowers when base rates do fall further. Lower mortgage rates will pave the way for a gradual recovery in the housing market."

The Halifax said it was reviewing the 14.5 per cent rate set for its 1.3 million customers on annual review, but planned no cut yet.

Government figures confirmed the recession and aroused hopes of a fresh cut in interest rates. However, the Bank of England signalled strongly that it wanted base rate to stay at 13.5 per cent.

Food imports, page 4
Full report, page 25

INSIDE

Gorbachev hits back

President Gorbachev yesterday headed off the call by Boris Yeltsin (above) for his resignation. The agenda of the Soviet *parliament* was turned upside down to accommodate speaker after speaker who accused the president of the Russian Federation of everything from "poor taste" to "inciting civil war" ... Page 11

Leading article, page 15

Food gap

Britain's food and drink trade gap widened by 9 per cent last year to reach £5.1 billion, replacing the motor vehicle sector as the biggest single contributor to the national current account deficit Page 4

Charity accused

The International Freedom Foundation has accused the Charity Commission of being politically biased because it has taken too long to complete an investigation of Oxfam .... Page 10

Royal symbol

The Queen has approved a new design of the royal crown to commemorate next year's 40th anniversary of her accession .... Diary, page 14

Worry lines

Lessons in coping with fear can be learnt from Gulf troops, which could help nervous rail travellers..... Page 19

Trade talks hope

World trade reform talks were revived yesterday as trade negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade meeting in Geneva agreed a formula under which European Community and American negotiators could continue to debate farm cuts............ Page 25

Fighting spirit belies US views

By MARIE COLVIN, OF THE SUNDAY TIMES, REPORTING FROM MOSUL, NORTHERN IRAQ

CONTRARY to General Norman Schwarzkopf's report of an army in virtual collapse and articles in the Western press about shivering and under-fed Iraqi soldiers, I have not spotted one such individual after a month in Iraq and extensive travelling between Basra and Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad.

Most Iraqi soldiers I have met are more like the four I joined for an early morning drink outside a tea parlour in Mosul. There is no electricity in any Iraqi city so, despite the drizzle of rain, anyone who was up at 8 o'clock chose to sit on the benches outside.

The four soldiers joked about subjects troops always discuss — "you pay for the tea", "no, you pay". They were meaningless jokes with tea going for about 250 fils (about 25p) a cup. Their uniforms might not meet the spit polish standards of a Western army but they were the uniforms of soldiers used to war. Their boots, black and broken in by duty, were still warm and serviceable. They wore neatly-patched uniforms, heavy warm anoraks and matching green gloves.

Their manner was also that of professional soldiers, for which Mosul is known. Of the four, Hassan was the most valuable. He is stationed in Kuwait and had been allowed home for ten days. His leave was twice as long as usual, because he had two brothers still in PoW camps in Iran and had received word they might be coming home. He is one of

Continued on page 24, col 1

Sex casts a shadow over church 'jamboree'

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND ROBERT COCKBURN

ALLEGATIONS of serious sexual improprieties dogged the final sessions of the World Council of Churches as a senior archdeacon called for the Church of England to reconsider its membership.

At the close of the seventh assembly yesterday, the delegates, who include Dr George Carey, Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, were searching their souls to explain an allegation of sexual assault by a Christian man on a female colleague. The scandal broke in *The Canberra Times*, which reported that a religious leader had asked a female delegate to perform a sexual act on him. The woman refused. The man is then alleged to have beaten her over the head until she surrendered to his demand. A sanctuary was subsequently set up where other women delegates were guaranteed safety and the Australian federal police called in.

In an article to be published by the *Church of England Newspaper* tomorrow, the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York and one of 19 Church of England delegates at the meeting, describes how his sensibilities were shocked when wandering around the foyer of the convention centre. "I found a table set up commending a feminist book which was surrounded by pornographic cartoons, including a couple performing an unnatural act. I managed to overcome the temptation to overturn the tables of those who sold porn and simply removed all the cartoons, to the fury of the woman who was on duty at the stall." When he took them to the information desk, they were handed back to the woman in charge of them. "I returned from the WCC assembly convinced that the Church of England needs to take stock of its membership of the World Council of Churches," he says.

The council, the largest world gathering of church leaders which, significantly, does not count Roman Catholics among its members, has prided itself on supporting women's rights within the church for the past 35 years. One issue on the assembly agenda was "justice for women". The assembly discussed "the longest, the most universal and perhaps the most harrowing form of oppression" — discrimination, subordination and exploitation of women.

Could the alleged assaults be because Canberra is the pornography capital of Australia? Or is it that the city has the nation's highest level of domestic violence? "The matter is now under police investigation," said Andrea Cano, a council spokeswoman and member of the American United Church of Christ. "Under Australian law there's not a lot we can say but they are considering legal proceedings (against the man). A haven for women has been set up under the Womanspace tent.

"Being in Australia is like being in the twilight zone," Miss Cano said. "I don't know how to say this but the response of the police has not been sensitive to the situation. The woman (victim) concerned is now being counselled."

The council has commanded little attention in its host country during this assembly and the sexual harassment is one of the first big stories that has been fully covered. No one was joking about the laying on of hands as members packed up to go home.

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Buck stops at Bush's desk in lonely countdown to land war

As George Bush faces the dilemma of war or peace, **Peter Stothard** argues that such a crucial foreign policy decision cannot be divorced from domestic interests

HARRY Truman's famous buck has now stopped firmly on George Bush's desk. The president, increasingly alone now, has to make the choice between launching a ground war or playing the spectator at a theatrical peace process backed by his superpower rival.

He cannot lean much more on his military advisers who, in the White House view, are taking an almost macabre pleasure in saying that their forces are finally ready. He cannot lean on his diplomats, whose leader, the Secretary of State, James Baker, sits grumpily in his tent. He cannot lean on his vice-president, whose already dim reputation is dulling by the day. And Barbara Bush, in the words of a friend, is "far too smart to mess with the Middle East".

As Mr Bush grapples with his miniature Hiroshima, it is a trick of fate that his closest confidant should be the highest-ranking Arab American in the nation's history, White House chief of staff, John Sununu. But he is a domestic animal and his top priority is to get the President reelected. The only foreign policy specialist at the lonely table is national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and it is upon him that the outcome must heavily depend.

General Scowcroft is a single minded man. Like the President he is probably in his last top public service job. When the two of them are together (which is often) the fall of President Saddam Hussein appears a simple worthwhile objective, a fitting cap on careers which were founded in the second world war, fixed by the cold war, and deeply influenced by the dangers of letting tyrants run too freely for too long.

Their joint instincts are to finish the job by removing the Iraqi dictator, fixing that achievement firmly in the book of history and only then looking to the future. The latest Soviet initiative is an anathema, not only because it may keep Saddam in power but because it was so predictable that Moscow would want to confuse their best hopes.

Mr Baker is also capable of single-minded determination when conditions demand it. But that time is not now, he thinks. Since the beginning of the confrontation, he has been sceptical of second world war analogies, the harsh rhetoric and the view that in the Middle East a firm cap can be put on anything.

He has pinned his hopes and political ambitions, on encouraging Mr Gorbachov's reforms and on an upheaval in the Arab world which would give the best chance for future negotiations. A ground war, he believes, would do grievous harm to prospects for both. While the President and General Scowcroft share a degree of faith in exemplary justice and the cleansing power of force, Mr Baker, the former Houston lawyer, is more of a percentage man. He does not think that the death of Saddam would necessarily intimidate a successor. He knows that the deaths of thousands of US troops would intimidate the American public. Iraq has never had a sensible government, one state department aide said the other day; "so what makes the White House think that next time will be any different?

Other State Department officials put Mr Baker's worries more bluntly. "He does not want Cheney and Powell to get the glory for a triumphant entry of US arms into Kuwait while he is left with the hassle of getting them out," according to one loyalist.

The Secretary of State is not at the end of his career. He would like a shot at the Presidency in 1996. Although he originally fought the choice of Dan Quayle for vice-president, he has been happy since then to allow Mr Quayle to keep the successor's seat warm. The war has changed that calculation. The Vice President has looked even more jejune than before, so much so that even close friends think that he may be removed from the ticket in 1992. What he says is still substantial. Last Thursday he made an effective case to a liberal Jewish forum in Miami that its current fervour for desert war should be maintained when it came to supporting future Penatgon budgets. But, as a politician, he is not progressing, and even his conservative friends know it.

Richard Cheney is attracting attention. Still more so is Colin Powell, the Jamaican-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For a few weeks, the idea of a "black Eisenhower" moving from military to political triumph seemed merely a journalistic cliché. But now it has become a nightmare for those who want an office next to a President Baker.

If the Democrats look like putting Virginia's black governor, Douglas Wilder, on their 1992 ticket, that could be the end of Dan Quayle. In a recession economy, with war successes sinking out of memory, a lock on the black vote could be decisive. The easiest way to get the President angry at the moment, it is said, is to suggest that the terrible choice of compromise or war can in any way be connected to domestic politics. But, as his top advisers know well, even at the court of gentleman George Bush loyalty begins at home.

DIPLOMACY

Allies seek to force Iraqis into rigid peace framework

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and America's response to the Soviet peace plan is apparently designed to avoid a repetition of the inconclusive settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, which enabled Baghdad to avoid making key concessions by dragging out negotiations.

Western diplomats said yesterday that the Soviet plan makes no provision for the return of allied prisoners of war, including Kuwaitis. Nor does it force Iraq to recognise the United Nations Security Council resolution nullifying the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. Their fear was that if Iraq agreed to an unconditional withdrawal without accepting such terms, it would be impossible to force Baghdad to make those concessions once the shooting stopped.

"The worst thing that could happen would be to have a ceasefire that leads to a lot of wrangling that needs a resumption of fighting," one diplomat said yesterday. "Just look at the experience of the Iran-Iraq war; how much bargaining in the souk was required." Iran learnt the lessons of negotiating with Iraq the hard way after the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The two sides agreed to a ceasefire in August 1988 within the framework of Security Council resolution 598, passed a year earlier, after eight years of war.

However, Iraq refused to relinquish occupied Iranian territory, to abandon its claim to full sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway dividing the two countries, or to return Iranian prisoners.

Baghdad insisted that the negotiations foreseen by resolution 598 should take place before any concessions by Iraq. Some 15 rounds of talks took place in Geneva with no result over the succeeding two years. It was only on August 4 last year, two days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, that Iraq — seeking a friendly neighbour — agreed to withdraw from Iran, respect an agreement on the Shatt al-Arab and return prisoners.

Muhammad Mahallati, Iran's ambassador to the UN during the Iran-Iraq negotiations, but now a scholar-in-residence at Columbia University, said: "According to my own direct experience, the Iraqi authorities do not respect any other word but force." He cautioned that Iraq's peace proposal last Friday appeared to try to exploit a similar loophole in the basic Security Council resolution on the Gulf as in resolution 598.

Resolution 660, passed the day Iraq invaded Kuwait, called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal. It also sought immediate intensive negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait.

One Western diplomat at the United Nations said the Soviet peace plan was "gently dying" and that Moscow was engaged in "creative backsliding". He said: "The Iraqis appear to be trying to play long. There is going to be a point when the Iraqi desire to play long and the Soviet willingness to acquiesce are going to run up against the American desire to start a ground offensive."

Iraq's ambassador has said that what Baghdad is seeking as a price for a withdrawal is a framework for the other issues named in the Iraqi communique, including an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, to be addressed.

He told the Security Council on Saturday: "Resolution 660, which Iraq announced it is ready to accept, refers to withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory but also refers to immediate and intensive negotiations."

Mr Mahallati, the former Iranian envoy, warned the allies against entering into talks with Iraq unless the ground rules were clear on such points as the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait.

● **PEKING:** Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, told Sadoun Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, in Peking yesterday that Baghdad should withdraw its forces from Kuwait immediately, but he failed to endorse any peace intiatives (Catherine Sampson writes).

Mr Li said that China was "grieved and anxious" about civilian casualties and the possible escalation of the war. He described the February 15 offer of a conditional withdrawal as "a positive change", the first indication of Iraqi willingness to pull out, but insisted that the withdrawal must be unconditional.

Mr Hammadi arrived from Moscow on Tuesday night for a brief visit on the orders of President Saddam Hussein.

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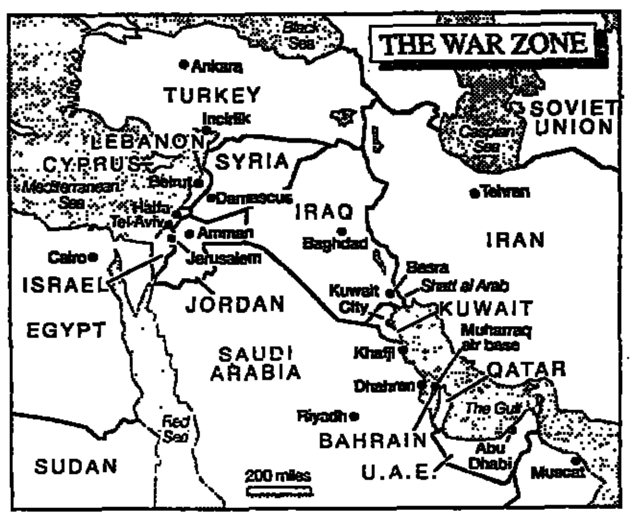
Leading article, page 15



WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 35

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: More than 85,000 air missions flown since war began on January 17.

CLAIMS: James Baker, the US state secretary, said Kuwait would be liberated soon. Helicopter with US troops crossed the northern Saudi border and rounded up at least 450 Iraqi soldiers. They surrendered after they were forced out of their bunkers by air attack, the US said. Some 60 miles north of the Saudi border American planes bombed Iraqi armour and artillery, destroying 28 tanks, 20 trucks and three guns, the US reported. An Iraqi ammunition bunker erupted in a massive fireball sending smoke 15,000 feet into the air after an attack by RAF Tornados. It was the biggest explosion seen during the conflict, a British forces spokesman said. The RAF also destroyed a fuel storage facility and five hangars at the airfield. At sea, one of the Royal Navy's five minehunters discovered two sophisticated "ground" mines in the northern Gulf.

After Iraq fired a Scud at Israel on Tuesday night, US B-52 heavy bombers later pounded the launch site, setting off explosions on the ground.

LOSSES: One American was killed and seven wounded in yesterday's attacks.

IRAQI FORCES

An Iraqi military communique, its 55th of the war, said the armed forces inflicted heavy casualties on allied troops that mounted an attack across Kuwait's border. It said allied planes carried out 58 air raids on civilian targets. These included residential areas, a mosque, two elementary schools, a number of bridges and roads and small fishing boats. It also reported 90 allied raids on Iraqi military targets in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council, passed on 2 August, condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and calls for an unconditional withdrawal and negotiations. Resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait".

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Headline message: an American soldier, expressing a prayer on his helmet, stands to attention on a Patriot anti-missile missile base in the Gulf. Patriots have been used to bring down many Iraqi Scuds fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT

Corpses piled up in ice-rink where children once skated

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE ice-skating rink in Kuwait City has been turned into a mortuary by the Iraqi occupiers and when Kuwaitis report relatives as missing they are sent to look among bodies heaped under blankets, an exile has said.

Badriya al-Awadi, the former dean of Kuwait University, said: "It is a big ice-rink and it is full, maybe 300 or 400 corpses. Many of the bodies are unrecognisable, they are so badly beaten.

"I remember going to the ice-rink to see the Bolshoi on ice. Before that we had Czechoslovaks performing. It was a beautiful place, a happy place. Now it is awful. A place where children played, now bathed in blood. Imagine it."

Professor Awadi estimated there had been about 5,000 Kuwaiti deaths. "People there say they don't know where their children are. People go out from their homes and don't come back. They hear shooting in the city centre."

She added that said that some 17,000 Kuwaitis, mostly civilians, have been held prisoner by Iraqi troops since the invasion on August 2. About 2,000 civilians were held in a camp at Mosul in north Iraq, 4,000 military personnel were held near Baghdad and 2,000 other people were in a camp near Kuwait City.

Bahrain Badr Jassem al-Yakoub, Kuwait'sinformation minister, said Iraqi forces started holding Kuwaiti families as human shields against a feared allied land offensive on Tuesday.

One torture centre had been established in a large city villa and another in an office block near the four-star Sheraton hotel.

Terrified residents of Kuwait are suffering nervous breakdowns, heart attacks and miscarriages because of the Gulf war, refugees reaching Jordan said yesterday.

A Jordanian teacher said: "We have no nerves left. People are breaking down from lack of sleep and fear." Hania Salbak, a Palestinian, said: "Sometimes I felt death was chasing me all the time."

Khaled Saagaddine, a Palestinian student, compared waiting in Kuwait for an allied ground offensive with sitting on a powder keg. "Now the planes are hitting mainly military targets but when the assault starts it will be street to street. It won't spare anyone."

Kuwaitis said water and power supplies in the capital were down to three hours a day, rubbish lay on the streets, and telephone lines were cut.

FRANCE

Paris urges US to wait for an Iraqi response

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Mitterrand discreetly asked the United States and Britain to give Baghdad more time to consider the Soviet peace plan yesterday "and not to precipitate things" as Paris chivvied Iraq to respond quickly, diplomatic sources said.

Daniel Bernard, a foreign ministry spokesman, said it would be quite natural for a UN Security Council meeting to be held if Iraq accepted Moscow's proposals. He emphasised that only "a massive and rapid retreat" would be acceptable to France.

M Bernard denied suggestions that Paris and Washington were deeply divided over the Soviet plan. "Everyone has his own way of expressing himself on this subject, but it would be presumptuous to draw conclusions about divergences."

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, called on President Saddam Hussein to express his intentions "clearly and without delay in the coming hours". A spokesman for M Dumas quoted him as saying: "By underlining that the Iraqi president ought to make known his intentions in the coming hours, France has shown she remains attached to a peaceful solution of the crisis. But that (solution) cannot turn its back on the principles enunciated by the UN Security Council and to which we have adhered in participating in the action in the Gulf."

Sources at the Quai d'Orsay said the Soviet plan "was a little insufficient" as it lacked "considerations of dates". But the French position amounted to "a message destined for the United States, inviting them to give time to Baghdad to reply to the Soviet plan", they said. M Mitterrand telephoned President Bush and John Major, the prime minister, on Tuesday night and asked them "not to precipitate things", the sources said.

M Dumas said that "the imminence of irreversible events on the ground, a land offensive, has engendered a revival of diplomatic activity. But more than ever the ultimate decision belongs to Saddam Hussein, who must choose clearly and without further delay between the evacuation of Kuwait and the continuation of the war".

There will be no ground war for at least two days, General Daniel Gazeau, in charge of French ground troops in Operation Desert Storm, said yesterday. Soldiers on both sides of the battle lines will continue sizing each other up during that time, he told French television. "I can tell you that, as of now, there is nothing in particular in the coming 48 hours."

Dumas: call for swift decision in Baghdad

Guarded Kinnock support for Soviet plan

London — Neil Kinnock yesterday gave guarded support to the Soviet initiative to end the Gulf war. But he again defeated a left-wing move to change the party's stance on the war and to back a ceasefire so that a fresh round of diplomacy could be launched (Philip Webster writes).

Mr Kinnock received a general briefing from Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, about the Soviet position but he was not given details of the plan. Yesterday, he told a private meeting of Labour MPs that all the reports suggested the Soviet position was that Iraq should withdraw unconditionally and immediately, and that this should be followed by a ceasefire. He said if that was the case it was a "pretty fair reflection" of Labour policy.

He emphasised, however, that any move to a solution must begin with a withdrawal of Iraqi forces, an end to any threat to the coalition forces and the immediate release of prisoners of war.

Policy switch

Warsaw — Kuwait has signalled it will pursue a different foreign policy towards East Europe after the Gulf war. The deputy foreign minister, Suleiman al-Shachim, visited Warsaw this week to discuss diplomatic relations, financial compensation for Polish losses and lucrative reconstruction projects.

Protective coat

Washington — An American paint company has sent 60 tonnes of a special paint to the Gulf to protect allied tanks and other armoured vehicles from "friendly fire". American reports said the paint makes tanks and military vehicles more easily identifiable by allied planes' infrared detectors. *(AFP)*

Contract talks

London — The government has begun negotiating with the Kuwaiti government-in-exile for an extension to a deadline for bids for rebuilding contracts in the emirate after the war. British construction firms were told earlier this week that they had only until noon yesterday to put in bids for postwar work. *(Reuter)*

Uncle Sam's Mexican army marches on

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

IF THE United States launches a ground war in the Gulf, one in every three of its soldiers will in fact be a Mexican serving as cannon fodder for Uncle Sam. That claim, reported in the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior*, is but one of a wave of war rumours swirling through Mexico, feeding off the country's deep grievance towards the giant northern neighbour.

Like just about every other event that touches the US, the Gulf war took a Mexican spin the day it was launched. At first, US immigration patrols reported a sudden drop in the daily flood of poor Mexicans crossing the Rio Grande and the long desert border in search of work. They apparently feared gringo press gangs who were rumoured to be lurking in the countryside, snatching up illegal arrivals and packing them off to the Saudi desert as human mine-sweepers.

By the time the American embassy in Mexico City pointed out that only US citizens could serve in the forces, it was too late — the idea of Uncle Sam's Mexican army had caught on. Mexican newspapers reported that Mexicans who had worked or studied in the United States were receiving letters from the US military enticing them to come back and sign up for service. "Apparently we are cheap and they think we know all about deserts," said Jaime, a New York-based Mexican cleaner. US reporters attempted to see copies of the alleged letters, but were unable to elicit any.

But the opposition scented a good opportunity for bashing the generally pro-US Salinas administration and began denouncing the recruitment of Mexicans to the gringo war. Cuahtémoc Cárdenas, a left-wing leader, denounced the fate of "thousands of Mexicans that are already in the deserts of Arabia, enlisted in an army and under a flag that are not ours".

President Salinas, who has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but avoided endorsing the American-led action, dismissed the allegations as nonsense, but as usual there was large enough grain of truth in the tale to propel the most overheated fiction. The Pentagon says about five per cent of the US forces are designated as Hispanic, many of Chicano, or Mexican, descent and some of them immigrants who signed on after being naturalised as citizens. A number of Hispanic and black activists in the US are claiming that members of their race are expected to "do the dying" by a white American establishment.

As always with Mexico's tortured ties to the US, many poor Mexicans have been tempted by the lure of wealth to the other side of the frontier. In Texas, army recruiters say Mexicans willing to risk combat in exchange for US citizenship have also been appearing at army offices along the border.

This week America was regaled with the tale of the town of Valle de Santiago, where a local editor decided to reprint a US recruiting advertisement originally aimed at Spanish-speakers of the US South. "US armed forces, where opportunity awaits your sons . . . $1,500 per month". The mention of a pay cheque beyond the dreams of a *campesino* was enough to spark an exodus.

Buying The Times overseas: Austria Sch 32; Belgium B Frs 60; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 220; Cyprus 90 cents; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Mkk 12.00; France F 11.00; W Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar 80p; Greece Dr 270; Holland Gl 4.00; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 3,000; Luxembourg Lf 55; Madeira Esc 220; Malta 43c; Morocco Dir 15.00; Norway Kr 14.00; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 220; Spain Pes 220; Sweden Skr 14.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.30; Tunisia Din 1.20; USA $3.00.

هكذا من الاعلام

MILITARY BRIEFING

Schwarzkopf says Iraqis are on verge of defeat

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS

IRAQ'S huge army is "on the verge of collapse", the commander of Operation Desert Storm said yesterday as border clashes between American and Iraqi forces intensified, reinforcing the impression that a full-scale allied land offensive may begin at any moment.

In one clash, American troops landed north of the Saudi border to take prisoner at least 450 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered after four American helicopters attacked their bunkers. This was the largest single surrender since the battle in Khafji last month and the first acknowledged mission of American troops operating well within enemy-occupied territory.

General Norman Schwarzkopf told the *Los Angeles Times* that the Iraqis were losing about two tank battalions, or more than 100 tanks, a day to allied air strikes, a rate of attrition no army could survive. Although the Iraqi military was not yet broken, and would almost certainly try to use chemical weapons in a ground war, it was "hurting and hurting badly", he said.

He portrayed the Iraqi forces as increasingly demoralised, beset by desertions and commanded by an inept leader. Another US military official told reporters that casualties among Iraqi troops in Kuwait were horrendous.

General Schwarzkopf likened the war so far to "a beagle chasing a rabbit", and his comments underscored a principal reason why President Bush has cold-shouldered the Soviet peace plan. The administration believes that an overwhelming military victory is in sight, and sees no reason why President Saddam Hussein should be allowed to survive in power.

Allied warplanes have adopted new tactics against the 4,200 Iraqi tanks in or near Kuwait. The changes have increased their success rate dramatically and diminished the prospect of a bloody and protracted ground war. In barely a week, the allies have nearly doubled to at least 1,400 the number of Iraqi tanks destroyed.

The coalition forces have switched to precision-guided "smart" bombs instead of relatively inaccurate gravity bombs, and they are now using infra-red equipment to detect the heat given off by dug-in tanks. This is proving particularly successful soon after dark when the sand cools faster than the tanks.

General Schwarzkopf said Iraq's military performance had confirmed what the allies had long suspected, that after an eight-year battle with Iran, the army had no real desire to fight again. Baghdad had grossly underestimated the power of the allied forces. Even if the war ended today, he said, Iraq's military machine would have suffered a "very dramatic setback".

US military spokesmen gave details yesterday of a number of engagements in the previous 24 hours that suggest allied land forces are now conducting more than mere reconaissance missions against the Iraqis. Apart from the helicopter attack on the Iraqi bunker, American tanks and armoured personnel carriers had fought Iraqi forces along the border. One allied soldier was killed, seven were wounded, two Bradley fighting vehicles were lost, but five Iraqi tanks and 20 artillery pieces had been destroyed.

In another border engagement, American army units had engaged a patrol of about a dozen Iraqis, destroying an armoured personnel carrier. A concentration of about 300 Iraqi vehicles north of the border had been pounded for several hours, destroying 28 tanks, 26 vehicles, three artillery peices and three ammunition storage areas.

Brigadier General Richard Neal, of Central Command (Centcom), said coalition forces were attacking Iraqi positions with artillery, helicopters and tactical air strikes and were continuing "aggressor patrolling and reconnaissance efforts across the border area". Warplanes had flown 1,000 sorties against Iraqi forces in the Kuwait theatre of operations in the previous 24 hours.

A British military spokesman said yesterday that the allies were still facing a potentially dangerous enemy capable of fighting a land battle. Group Captain Niall Irving said that some Iraqi units had been more badly hit than others, but that did not mean that the whole Iraqi army was demoralised.

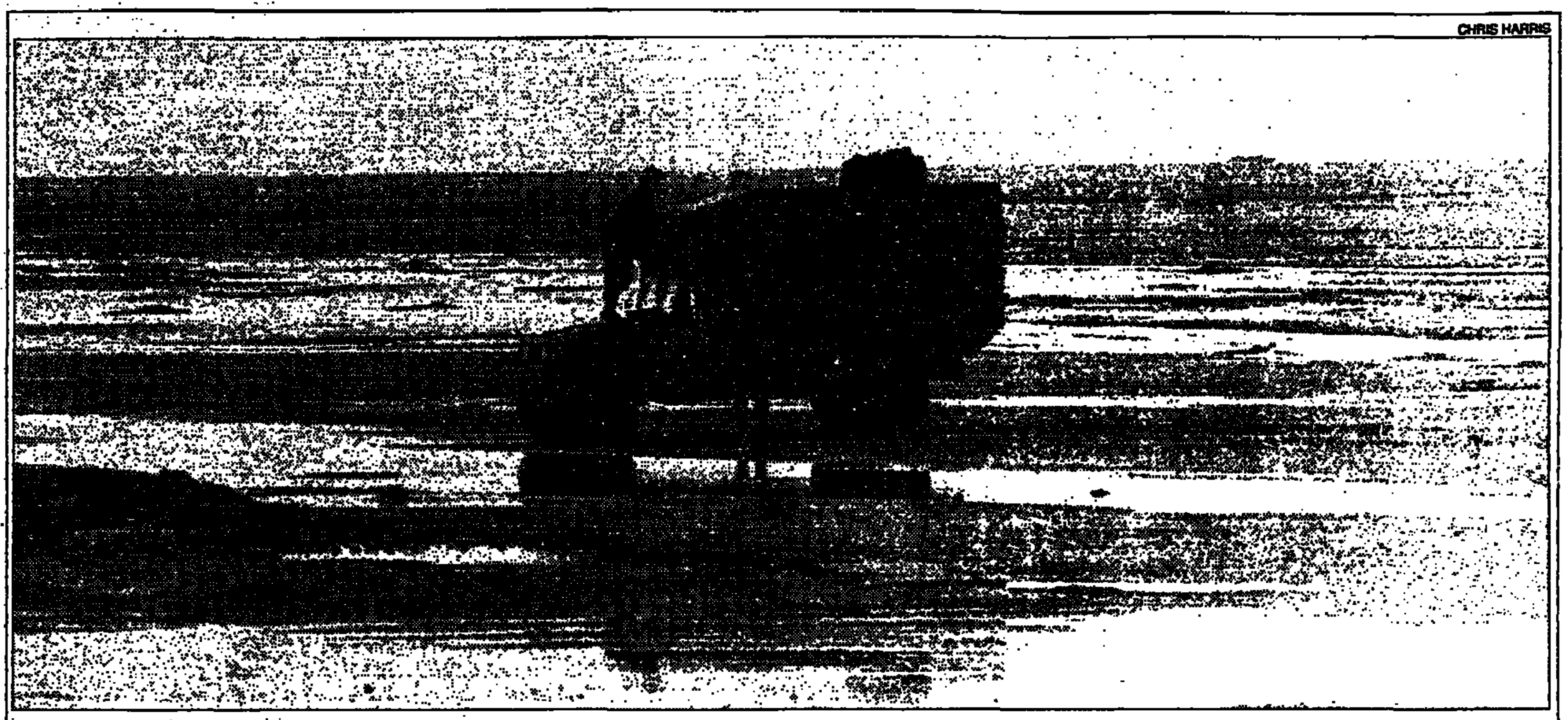
Schwarzkopf: Saddam's army is "hurting badly"

He confirmed that several soldiers from the Republican Guard had defected, but it was "hardly surprising" after the bombing they had endured and the numbers were not significant.

RAF Tornados were reported to have hit two ammunition dumps at air bases in Iraq, one of which blew up, sending a black cloud 15,000ft into the air. Artillery destroyed by British multiple launch rocket systems two days ago were all 122mm D30s, which are among the oldest of Iraq's towed howitzers.

Letters, page 15

CHRIS HARRIS



Damp course: allied soldiers waiting for assistance in the northern Saudi desert, flooded by heavy overnight rain, after their lorry broke down on the way to the front yesterday

KUWAITI BORDER

US army scouts play deadly game of cat and mouse

From PHILIP JACOBSON WITH BRITISH TROOPS OVERLOOKING NO MAN'S LAND

DRIVING up to the front, we saw two American multiple-launch rocket systems in action, sending a stream of fire arcing out above us, then heard the deep thud of distant explosions. The rockets are apparently accurate to a terrifying degree for those on the receiving end, fully justifying their reputation as "grid square removal kits".

Their normal tactics are to fire a salvo or two, then move on before the Iraqis' considerable ability to bring down counter-battery fire within a short space of time is tested: on this occasion, however, there were no shells coming our way, conceivably because the enemy gunners have learned the bitter lesson that opening up virtually guarantees detection by allied observation posts and another hail of incoming artillery.

Encouraged by a team of US Army scouts in this no man's land, we scrambled to the top of their protective sand berm, feeling mildly exposed but enjoying a clear view out towards the forward Iraqi positions. Nothing moved beneath the baking midday sun. "After dark we sometimes see a flash of light over there, and last night someone started sweeping the dead zone with a big beam," said Sergeant Bruce Culper, the team leader. "Kinda crazy thing to do, because we called that straight into the artillery and they soon had us back to normal."

When we set off back towards the allied lines, a sudden series of muzzle flashes signalled another salvo from the big guns astride a nearby ridge. From there, we gazed out over a vast assembly of troops, armour and more guns, stretching as far as the eye could see.

Coming up, we had seen an eagle swooping and rising over the inhospitable terrain, still wet from a furious storm the night before. At every allied encampment, sodden sleeping bags were hung out to dry on tent poles, like some weird crop of fruit. Most of the troops we passed were taking it easy, under orders to get plenty of rest in case the ground attack begins.

A trio of B-52 bombers appeared, flying at an almost leisurely approach to their bombing run. The hollow crumps followed shortly. Evidence of previous visits from the bombers lay all around us, leaflets dropped by tens of thousands in an attempt to persuade Iraqi troops to desert.

Fear counselling, page 19

LEBANON

Israelis bomb guerrillas

From ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE Israeli airforce raided positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine near the Syrian-Lebanese border yesterday, wounding three guerrillas. Security sources said that two F16 jets dropped four 1,000lb bombs on Ezzi village, only six kilometres from the Syrian frontier in eastern Lebanon, and destroyed a two-storey building used as a base for attacks against Israel.

It was the fifth Israeli air raid against the guerrilla group's positions in Lebanon this year and the first since the Lebanese army deployed two weeks ago to halt guerrilla attacks against the Jewish state. Police said the wounded were transferred to hospitals in the area. Israel radio reported that the jets returned safely to base.

A Lebanese air force training jet exploded in the air and crashed in eastern Lebanon yesterday, killing its crew of two. An army communiqué said the command tower lost communications with the American-made Bulldog training plane while it was flying over the Bekaa valley. It was later discovered near the village of Shmistar, 30 miles from Beirut. It was the latest in a series of crashes due to technical faults that have plagued the ageing Lebanese air force.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Lucky charms give a lift for pilots under strain

From LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

WING Commander Pablo Mason attracts concerned glances as he prepares for his next sortie still wearing a white T-shirt. As the time to talk to the aircraft approaches, some voice their concern. "Everything all right, sir?" asks one.

The wing commander knows what is on their minds and changes into his red T-shirt. He has worn it on every mission he has flown since Operation Desert Storm began. All his colleagues on Tornados at the base have similar superstitions, routines or lucky charms. When the limits of professionalism have been reached, there is comfort in superstition.

One pilot has worn the same pair of socks on every mission. They have yet to be washed. He is clearly embarrassed about being so obsessive, let alone anti-social, yet refuses to change in case it alters his luck. Such behaviour in peacetime would have attracted gibes from colleagues on the squadron, but in war it is acceptable. Most of them put their faith in something.

Wing Commander Mason said: "You think that they are your own personal secrets of survival, personal lucky charms, but they are not. Other people do notice."

The red T-shirt was only brought out at the last minute, having spent the past few years hidden at the bottom of a drawer. "I was wearing it the day I had a mid-air collision with an Iraqi student some years ago. I ejected and came away with just a few scratches, and when the statisticians got hold of it we should have been dead. The T-shirt was a bit burnt and got a few holes, but I always wear it when I'm flying now."

He said that such superstitions reach a peak, and when something alters slightly you realise you can go back down to a less obsessive level. "The T-shirt began to smell and you think well, can I wash it, dare I wash it? Eventually it was washed and I flew a successful mission and got back and thought, okay, we can come down a little now because I know I can wash the T-shirt. You build up to a crescendo."

He said all the preparations for a flight followed a set pattern. "If one day that routine gets broken and you realise it has been broken, then it plays on your mind until you go into the sortie proper. When you get back, there is a certain relief and you think ah well, that particular routine did not matter."

He said different people gave priority to a variety of things. For some it was a piece of clothing, for others it was always having the same meal before flying. "None of us came out here expecting we would all go home. You do everything in your power to make sure you are one that goes home. You work to the limits of your professional skills and you know you can be no better, then the lucky charms come in."

This report is subject to military censorship.

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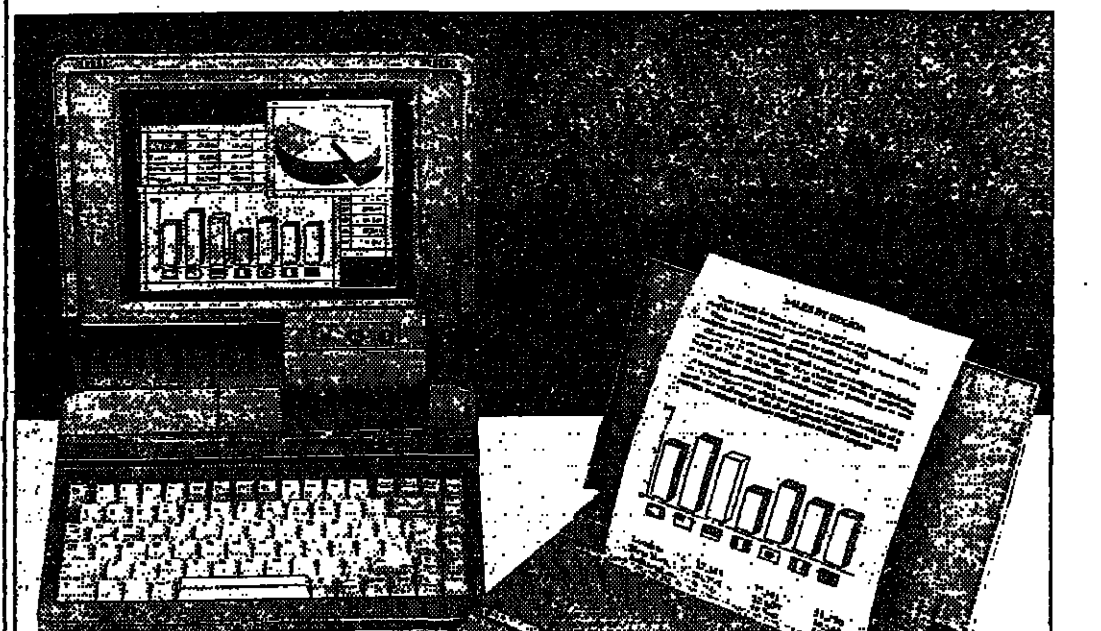

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Right royal effort: The Prince of Wales at Rolls-Royce near Bristol, Prince Edward with service families at RAF Uxbridge, and the Duchess of York at Aldershot with Claire Warren, whose husband Nigel is in the Gulf, and baby Carly

Failures in the food industry make it top trade deficit culprit

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S food and drink trade gap widened by 9 per cent last year to reach £5.1 billion, replacing the motor vehicle sector as the biggest single contributor to the national current account deficit, according to figures released yesterday.

Food and drink accounted for nearly a third of the total trade deficit of £16.1 billion. Drink exports, led by Scotch whisky, performed well, rising by 17 per cent. But exports of food rose by no more than 2.5 per cent and imports are now two-and-a-half times the level of exports.

Paul Judge, chairman of Food from Britain, the agency set up in 1984 to boost sales of British produce, said that Britain was losing the competitive war with other European countries. "Britain's traditionally independent farmers are being out-marketed by the large European co-operatives," he said. "Despite some improvement, British manufacturers are still not deploying sufficient resources to capture a larger share of what will become a huge home market after 1992.

"Britain has excellent raw materials and technological capability, but both industry and government must show a greater commitment if this huge trade deficit is to be reduced for the benefit of farmers, manufacturers and the economy as a whole."

Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg, which have no climatic advantage over Britain, accounted last year for more than half the food and drink trade deficit. The Netherlands and Denmark, which have much smaller agricultural industries than Britain, had surpluses on their farm trade with Britain of £1.1 billion and £0.7 billion respectively.

More than half the food and drink deficit was in products that can be grown in Britain, such as meat, dairy products, vegetables and indigenous fruits, exports of which fell by £152 million. Beef exports fell by £80 million, partly due to concern over the "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The figures reinforce growing concern that Britain's farmers are failing to market their produce. Some experts believe that the relatively larger size and efficiency of British farms has impeded the formation of the powerful marketing co-operatives that are common on the Continent.

Safeway, the supermarket chain, earlier this week listed 70 items capable of being grown in Britain that it imports because British suppliers cannot provide the right quality, consistency or price. Sir Basil Feldman, the Safeway chairman, said that eight out of ten tomatoes and a similar proportion of apples sold in Britain were imported.

Tony Combes, Safeway's director of public affairs, said: "You can go to a supplier in Holland, say you want 10,000 cases tomorrow at 11am, and tomorrow at 11am 10,000 cases have arrived. The foreign suppliers are better able to meet the specifications."

Two thirds of the items imported by Safeway are from France, Germany and The Netherlands. They include cornflakes, flaked mashed potato, frozen sliced beans, fresh cauliflowers, ravioli and long-life cakes from France; Cox's apples, conference pears, lettuce, frozen carrots from The Netherlands; and frozen pizzas and Cox's apples from Germany.

● Norman Lamont, the chancellor, is being urged to make a radical overhaul of motoring taxation to ease the effects of the recession on the car industry and increase sales of more environmentally friendly vehicles (Kevin Eason writes).

He is under pressure to scrap the £100 road tax disc in favour of adding up to 40p a gallon to the price of four-star petrol in his maiden Budget next month.

The Royal Automobile Club has predicted the move, which would be hailed by environmentalists as taxing the motorists who use most fuel and cause most pollution.

But business leaders say it would drastically increase the costs of companies with heavy use of cars, vans and lorries.

The motor industry wants the chancellor instead to scrap the 10 per cent Special Car Tax to spur sales, and also to consider restructuring the tax framework on company cars and offer greater incentives to buyers of diesel cars, which use less fuel and are more environmentally friendly.

Royal family mobilises behind Gulf war

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEMBERS of the royal family flew a record four sorties in one day yesterday in support of Britain's war effort in the Gulf. Official briefers at Buckingham Palace denied, however, that the show of royal strength was a response to recent random missile attacks from the press.

The Prince of Wales, at his own request, met workers at the Rolls-Royce engine factory at Patchway, Bristol, which houses the main assembly line for the RB199 engine fitted to the Tornado, and also builds engines for the Harrier and Jaguar.

The Princess of Wales squeezed in a visit to Glasgow's Gulf crisis self-help support group while on a long-arranged visit to the city, and a new royal weapon, Prince Edward, made his first Gulf-related visit — to service families at RAF Uxbridge, west London, headquarters of the Queen's Colour Squadron and the central band of the RAF.

The Duchess of York, who has been up with the frontline morale-boosters since early in the campaign, spent 90 minutes at Aldershot with the wives and children of soldiers serving with 27 and 33 Field Hospital, and 27 Regiment of the Royal Corps of Transport.

Goodwill bombardment continues today, although at a slightly reduced level. Princess Margaret, whose initial foray into battle two weeks ago was frustrated by bad weather, makes a second attempt to visit RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, while the Duchess of York will be at RAF Honington in Suffolk.

As always, the biggest guns are being used sparingly. The Queen herself will wait until March 15, when she is due to open the new Stansted airport, to visit RAF West Raynham in Norfolk, by which time the complexion of the war may be somewhat different.

Gulf reports, pages 2 and 3

Lamont urged to overhaul car taxes

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, is being urged to make the most radical overhaul of taxation on motoring in the lifetime of the Conservative government to ease the effects of the recession on the car industry and increase sales of more environmentally friendly vehicles.

He is under pressure to scrap the £100 road tax disc in favour of adding up to 40p a gallon to the price of four-star petrol in his first Budget on March 19.

The RAC has predicted the move, which would be hailed by environmentalists as taxing motorists who use most fuel and cause most pollution. Business leaders, however, believe it would worsen the situation for struggling companies, increasing the costs of firms with high-mileage car, van and lorry users.

The Treasury is also thought to be wary about the abolition of vehicle excise duty. Although the cost of a tax disc has remained unchanged at £100 for five years, it yields about £3 billion annually in taxes.

The motor industry wants the Chancellor instead to scrap the 10 per cent special car tax to spur sales and to consider restructuring the tax framework on company cars.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents garages and dealerships employing more than 500,000 people, says that phasing out the special car tax, worth £1.5 billion annually, over five years would bring car prices into line with prices on the Continent.

Leading article, page 15

Taxi user's tip for the Treasury

By JOHN WINDER

IF THE new £5 and £10 notes are too similar in size there is a high risk of taxi drivers being over-tipped. An American experience has made Terence Higgins, chairman of the Treasury select committee of MPs, well aware of the danger.

He said at Westminster last night that on a visit to the US, the fact that the $100 bill is the same size as the $1 had cost him $99. Mr Higgins gave his warning to the committee and witnesses from the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Royal Mint.

Malcolm Gill, chief cashier of the Bank of England, said that the new £10 note would be slightly smaller than the £20 and the designs would be different.

Diane Abbott, Labour member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, had done some research among British cab drivers and found that they believed the notes were getting smaller as their value grew less.

Mr Gill cautiously observed that they had not changed the design for that reason, but accepted that that "may have tended to happen, and since the old £5 note went there has clearly been a reduction."

He said the main reason for changing designs was to keep one step ahead of the counterfeiters, now equipped with colour photocopiers rather than printing sets in garden sheds.

Extra police patrol stations in wake of Victoria bombing

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

EXTRA uniformed police have been deployed to patrol London's mainline railway stations in the wake of Monday's bomb attacks at Victoria and Paddington stations, it emerged yesterday.

The British Transport Police (BTP), which is primarily responsible for policing the railway network, has also decided that all litter bins at mainline stations in London should be sealed or removed to prevent the placing of bombs in them.

The extra officers have been drawn from the Metropolitan and City of London forces. Thirty City constables are now patrolling stations, together with an unspecified number of Metropolitan officers.

A BTP spokesman said: "We decided, in view of the security situation, that there is a need for a greater uniformed presence. Fortunately, we have excellent liaison with the two other main London forces and have been able to draw on their reserves."

The spokesman dismissed criticism that the force had failed negligently to record the bombers on a security camera video. Twenty-six security cameras are installed at Victoria station, but they were not operating early on Monday morning when the bomb went off, killing a man and injuring 38 other people in the worst IRA mainland atrocity against civilians since the 1983 Harrods bombing.

The spokesman said: "Security cameras were installed at Victoria a few years ago as part of the station's modernisation, but they were designed to be used selectively against pickpockets, prostitutes and drug dealers. They were never meant to provide 24-hour blanket cover."

Rail passengers yesterday continued to face disruption as police received a spate of hoax bomb warnings and reports of suspect packages. Parts of London Underground were closed several times, and York railway station was shut for nearly two hours.

Scotland Yard said that many calls had been from well-meaning people, but that a large number had been malicious. The Yard received 101 hoax calls and more than 200 reports of suspect packages between midnight on Monday and midnight on Tuesday, many more than usual.

The man killed at Victoria, David Corner, aged 36, of Thornton Heath, south London, died instantly from a shrapnel wound, Westminster coroner's court was told yesterday. An inquest was opened and adjourned. Paul Knapman, the coroner, said: "I think I speak for everyone when I say that we hope the perpetrators of this outrage will be brought to justice."

Unions reject penalty points for redundancy

COUNCIL workers in Liverpool could be made redundant according to a penalty points system, with strikers and those with a record of unauthorised absenteeism or disciplinary action taken against them suffering heavily (Ronald Faux writes).

Pat Archer-Jones, director of personnel and management services, has drawn up the scheme, which was angrily rejected by the town hall unions yesterday.

The Liverpool authority has announced that 600 of the council's 29,000 jobs must go and the hope has been that the savings would be achieved by voluntary redundancy or by transferring staff to vacant jobs. If this failed, the points system could be used to decide who should be made redundant, although a council spokesman emphasised that the scheme had not been approved by the ruling Labour group on the council.

The joint trades unions committee yesterday threatened to strike if the scheme was even put before the council and demanded that it be withdrawn.

Analysts sound alert on tank choice

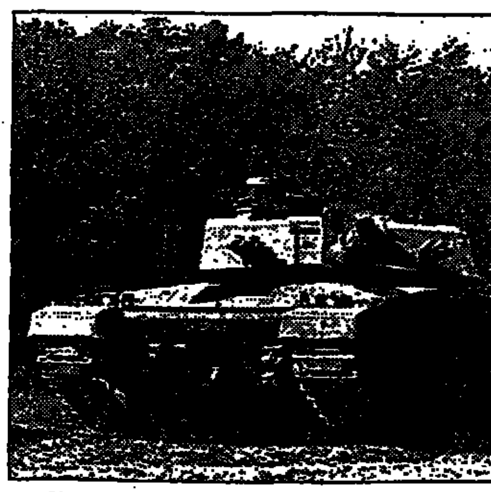
By PETER DAVENPORT

FAILURE by the government to select Challenger II as the next generation tank for the army will result in Britain not being considered a potential prime contractor in any future European or Nato main battle tank programme, defence analysts said yesterday.

They said that a decision to buy from abroad would also put at risk up to 2,400 jobs, mean missing out on valuable export orders, and cause the loss of tank design and production skills. Britain's international reputation in developing high-technology weapons would also be jeopardised.

The warning came in a report published yesterday by the Centre for Defence Economics at York university. The report, by Professor Keith Hartley, the centre's director, and Nick Hooper, a senior research fellow, was commissioned and funded by Vickers Defence Systems, which produced Challenger II, but it was carried out as an independent study.

The report was released the day after Alan Clark, the defence minister, announced another delay in the decision on a replacement for the army's Chieftain tank. The decision will not be made until after the war.



Challenger II: jobs depend on government contract

Challenger II is competing against the American Abrams M1A2, the German Leopard and the French Leclerc tanks. It is understood that the government is eager to see how Challenger I and the Abrams tank, both on frontline duty in the Saudi desert, perform in battle conditions.

The decision to delay a decision again is causing concern to Vickers, which employs 1,500 people in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. A spokesman said yesterday: "We need an early endorsement in order to take advantage of exports and re-equipment opportunities." He said that already one country had indicated that it would buy Challenger II, but only if it were selected for the British army.

Although the defence ministry has not disclosed the size of the likely order for the Chieftain replacement, yesterday's report worked on the basis of 300 Challenger II tanks being acquired over five years. Such an order, the report said, would be worth £620 million but would provide turnover for British industry of £1 billion.

However, buying "off the shelf" from abroad would put at risk about 2,400 jobs and involve net import costs of more than £100 million a year. "Any decision not to purchase a UK main battle tank is likely to lead to the loss of some specialised industrial capabilities in which the UK has centres of excellence."

Professor Hartley said yesterday that the study had not tried to evaluate Challenger II's qualities but had concentrated on the order's economic consequences. The order concerned not only Vickers Defence Systems but its 43 main suppliers, 34 of them based in Britain, many in areas of high unemployment. Challenger II forms 42 per cent of the turnover of supplying companies in Yorkshire and Humberside, the report noted, although the impact is much less elsewhere.

● More than 700 Yorkshire miners were told yesterday their jobs would be lost in a year. British Coal said that by then it would no longer be possible to mine coal economically from the Allerton Bywater mine near Castleford, West Yorkshire (Tim Jones writes).

Next month, 370 South Wales miners will also lose their jobs when the Deep Navigation Colliery at Treharris closes. The area will be left with four pits employing fewer than 2,000 men.

Union leaders at Allerton were told that the 116-year-old mine had lost £25 million in the past ten years and £4.9 million in the past 12 months. Alan Houghton, British Coal's group area director, said that the pit could close earlier if it did not sustain the short-term profit it had been making recently.

Stress damages

Two booking clerks who suffered shock and mental stress in the Kings Cross fire tragedy that claimed 31 lives in November 1987 won a total of £65,000 damages in the High Court in London yesterday. Brian Anstis, aged 59, of Walthamstow, who retired on medical grounds, was awarded £50,000, and Ratilal Mistry, aged 38, of Harrow, received £15,000. London Underground admitted liability.

Reuter threat

Reuter, the international news and finance agency, is facing a series of 24-hour strikes by 1,100 staff who claim that the management has "reneged" on a promise of pay rises in line with inflation. David Thompson, leader of the National Union of Journalists branch at Reuter, claimed the company had caused "a sense of outrage" among UK staff, who have had a 7 per cent settlement imposed on them.

Nurses' dispute

Disciplinary proceedings are expected to be taken against nurses who went on strike recently during a dispute at the Rampton and Ashworth high-security special hospitals. The Special Hospitals Authority is considering action against the nurses, who could be charged with endangering patients and face being struck off the register of state-registered and state-enrolled nurses.

Canal suicide

An employee at the Marconi electronics centre in Addlestone, Surrey, who believed he would be prevented from capitalising on a secret invention by company rules, drowned himself in a canal, an inquest at Aldershot heard yesterday. Malcolm Puddy, aged 44, was discovered weighted down by a painter's trestle in a partially frozen canal. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

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Police failure left potential murder weapon unchecked

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE killing of a wealthy businessman's wife went unsolved for eight years *after* police failed to check a potential murder weapon. Only a chance meeting between the victim's husband and Keith Rose, the man accused of her murder, *enabled* police to reopen the case and make an arrest, Exeter crown court was told yesterday.

In September 1981, Juliet Rowe was shot six times with a .22 pistol at her home near Budleigh Salterton, Devon. The final two shots to her head and heart, fired at point-blank range, were the "callous, brutal act of an executioner" Neil Butterfield, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Devon and Cornwall police carried out extensive enquiries but failed to find the killer or a motive. Then in 1989 Mr Rose, a company director, approached the dead woman's husband, Gerald Rowe, in a public house. He allegedly tapped him on the shoulder and said: "I'm Keith Rose. Did you know that I was pulled on your wife's murder because I belonged to a gun club?" Mr Butterfield said that *it* was an unusual approach to a man whose wife had been murdered. Mr Rowe told the police and they interrogated and eventually charged Mr Rose, who has denied the killing.

Mr Butterfield said that Mr Rose, aged 41, of Copplestone, near Exeter, escaped detection four days after the killing *when police checked* all .22 pistols registered in Devon and Cornwall. Because they regarded his Colt Woodsman as unsafe they returned it to him without having test-fired it. Mr Butterfield said that with hindsight that was regrettable, but at the time the murder weapon had not been identified. "There was nothing to connect Keith Rose with the killing. He did not feature as a police suspect."

Juliet Rowe: shot in the head and heart

Two months later in *November 1981, when* the type of weapon was identified as a .22 Colt Woodsman, detectives failed to check Mr Rose's pistol although they examined 150 others across the country.

Mr Butterfield said that Mr Rose had called at Mrs Rowe's home and tricked his way in by telling her that he was a telephone worker. "Precisely what happened in the minutes before Mrs Rowe's death, only she and her killer can know. Precisely why the fatal shots were fired only the killer himself will know."

The court was told that Gerald Rowe was a successful businessman who had built up a chain of 18 supermarkets and two bakery shops named after his wife. Mrs Rowe, aged 42, lived a "contented, comfortable and essentially ordinary life" dedicated to her husband and their two sons.

On the day of her murder, Mr Rowe's office received a call from a man who made an appointment for that afternoon but did not keep it. Mr Butterfield said that it was probably the killer ensuring that Mr Rowe would not be at home. Shortly after 3pm an automatic alarm linked to Exmouth police station sounded. Within 12 minutes two officers were at Mrs Rowe's house, where they *found her body lying in the* hall.

The case continues today.

Cub scouts take on a new look for the 1990s

THE days when being a cub scout meant evenings in a church *hall* tying knots, and the occasional weekend on a Welsh mountain are over (William Cash writes). To make scouting relevant to the Nineties, a new cub scout programme was launched yesterday with the promise of making scouting more modern, adventurous and challenging.

Traditionalists may however be *unimpressed* by the new-fangled programme, which abandons bronze, silver and gold badges in favour of such new awards as the Home Safety, Computer, World Friendship and World Faiths.

Studying religions other than one's own is a key element of the new programme's "greater emphasis on community and spiritual matters", the Scout Association said.

The new programme, based on three years' research, comes amid the growing inter*nationalisation of the move*ment, which has 16 million members in 160 countries.

Father heard voice of son day after murder by IRA

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a man interrogated and then shot dead by the IRA as a police informer spoke yesterday of how he heard a taped plea for mercy by his son the day after he was killed.

Patrick Fenton, speaking on the second day of the trial of Danny Morrison, the former national director of publicity for Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said that he went to a Sinn Fein office in west Belfast the day after his son, Joseph, had been found shot dead.

Mr Fenton said that Sinn Fein officials produced a cassette tape that was played to him. On it he heard the voice of his son giving his name and address, apparently to IRA interrogators. "In the tape he gave a lot of information that during the period after 1981 he had carried explosives for the IRA," Mr Fenton told Belfast crown court.

Mr Fenton described how RUC special branch detectives had started to follow his son and had gradually built up a dossier on his activities. He said his son started a mortgage lending business on the Falls Road and that special branch detectives had "let mortgages go through" in return for information. But when the information dried up, the business closed.

Mr Fenton said that his son also spoke on the tape about a car he had bought for the IRA which was used for carrying weapons across the border. At one point the car was followed and stopped by police and those inside arrested. This had led the IRA to the conclusion that he was an informer.

"The last part of the tape was Joseph asking for mercy to be shown and to be allowed to go home to his wife and kids," Mr Fenton told the court. "But as you know, this wasn't done. Joseph was shot."

Danny Morrison, aged 38, of Belfast, and six other defendants deny falsely imprisoning Joseph Lynch and of conspiring with others to murder him between January 4 and January 8 last year.

The Crown case is that Mr Morrison and his co-conspirators were interrogating Mr Lynch in a house in west Belfast, during which Mr Lynch also made a taped confession, and that there were plans to shoot him on the basis that he was an informer. The Crown alleges that the same house had been used earlier in a similar interrogation of Joseph Fenton before he was shot.

During cross-examination police officers, who broke into the house at a 124 Carrigart Avenue, where Mr Lynch was allegedly being detained by the IRA, gave differing accounts of his state when they found him. Constable Ivan McKelvey, who kicked down the door and was first into the house, agreed with defence counsel that there was nothing unusual about Mr Lynch's demeanour to suggest that his circumstances were any different to the other people in the house.

But Sergeant Potter, a member of an RUC headquarters mobile support unit, who arrived minutes later and took Mr Lynch away to a police station, said: "He [Mr Lynch] was dishevelled, shaking. He wasn't wearing any shoes and seemed quite pale."

Mr Lynch, who has been in hiding since his rescue, is expected to take the witness stand on Monday.

Saturday Review

A tribesman from Surrey

Alan Franks hears the remarkable story of the Surrey man who was assimilated into the remote Samburu tribe

New country, old glories

Germany's elite male society which dreams of pre-Hitler aristocratic glories

MacCarthy on Simon Raven

Orgies? Social climbing? Fiona MacCarthy finds herself unshocked by Simon Raven's world

Offer: choose your cruise

A choice of two superb cruises through southern France organised with *Times* readers in mind

14 years for attack on police

A BROTHER of Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, was jailed for 14 years yesterday for his part in a gun *attack* on a police station in West Belfast (Edward Gorman writes).

Sean Patrick Adams, aged 32, was convicted with Anthony Gillen, both of Belfast, of attempting to wound a soldier and a policeman and possessing a rifle with intent.

Jailing both for 14 years, Mr Justice Campbell told Adams and Gillen that the shooting, "like most terrorist attacks, was a cowardly one". Adams and Gillen were acquitted of attempting to murder a soldier and policeman in a police station guard post, although Mr Justice Campbell said he strongly suspected they had intended to do so.

During the trial last week Belfast crown court was told *that the gun attack on* New Barnsley RUC station in West Belfast had been carried out as part of more than 20 IRA diversionary operations to distract security forces during an attempted break out by republicans from Crumlin Road jail in October 1989.

Gun plot uncovered after raid

A PLOT by the Irish People's Liberation Organisation to buy guns on the Continent was discovered after the RUC raided a flat in West Belfast last week, the Northern Ireland High Court was told yesterday.

Among items found there, a Crown lawyer said, were 21 passport photographs, 80 false press cards and a National Union of Journalists ink stamp. The lawyer said that the flat owner, Patrick Guinness, aged 42, had made the passports and press cards for two IPLO men who went to Belgium to buy guns for the organisation.

They were confronted by police in Antwerp however and fled after firing a shot. Anthony Kerr was later extradited from Holland and sent to prison. Peter McNally was sentenced in his absence.

A lawyer for Guinness, of Distillery Walk, Belfast, said he would be contesting alleged admissions on the grounds that they were not voluntary. Guinness is accused of membership of the IPLO and possessing documents useful to terrorists.

Campaign calls on smokers to packet in

By JOE JOSEPH

ESTHER Rantzen, who smoked but gave up, the health minister Virginia Bottomley, who never started, and Gary Lineker and Will Carling, sportsmen who both stopped after a few prepubescent puffs, joined forces yesterday to launch No Smoking Day, which will take place on March 10.

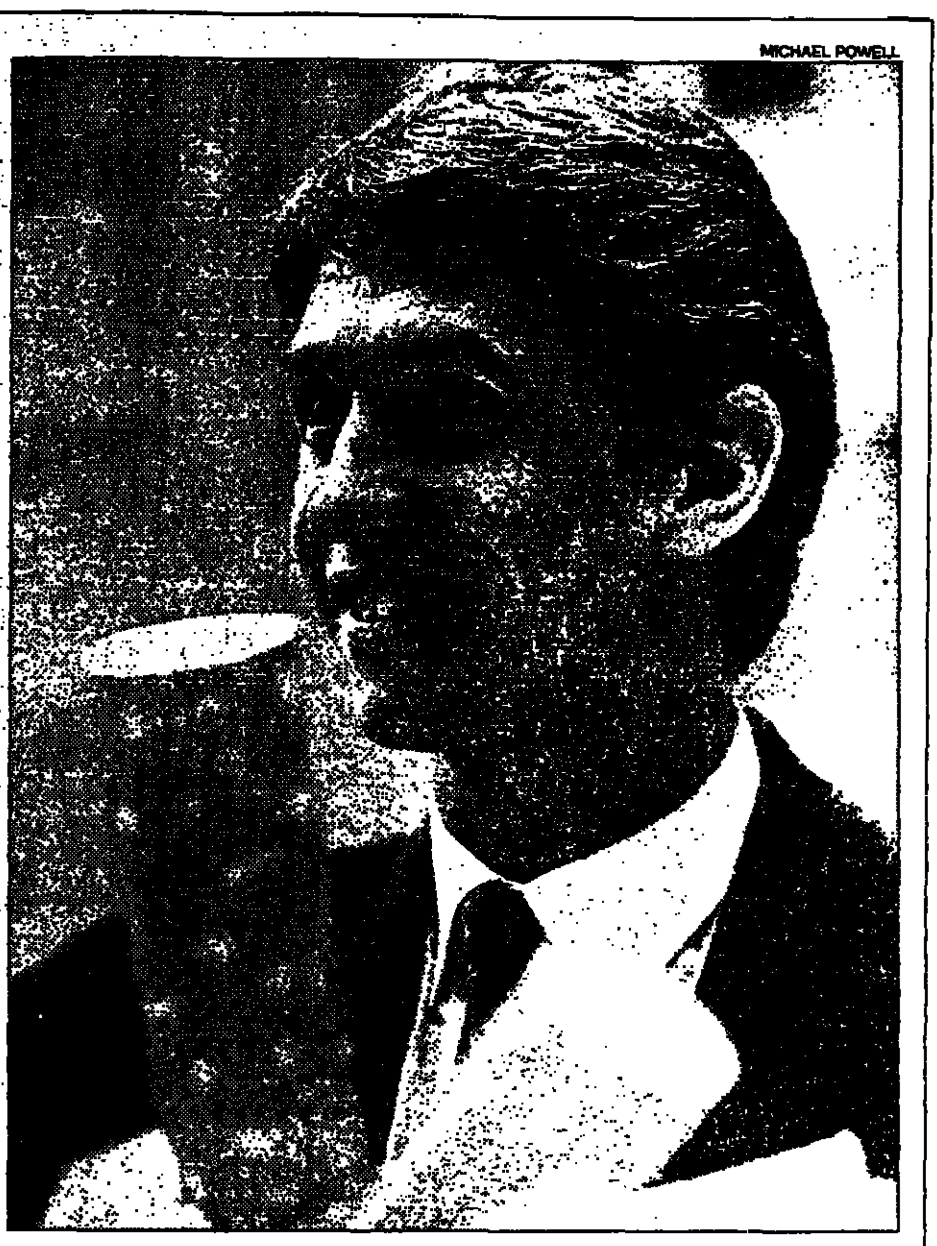
Under the slogan "Let's Packet In", which has been translated into several Asian languages, the campaign hopes to improve on last year when 50,000 smokers were persuaded to give up.

Smoking kills about 110,000 people in Britain each year, and Mrs Bottomley said that apart from the no smoking day, the government was sponsoring a £1 million campaign to stop pregnant women smoking. Only one in 12 pregnant smokers give up, she said.

Looking for a topical link, Dr Ronald Davis, director of the United States office on smoking and health, compared tobacco to Saddam Hussein, calling both a ruthless killer of Britons and Americans.

He said that the number of dangerous chemicals and gases in cigarettes was enough to make anyone sick. "It's like breathing a chemical factory into your lungs."

MICHAEL POWELL



Lineker: "Hardly any footballer in the professional game now smokes"

Gary Lineker, the English soccer captain, said: "I hardly know a footballer in the professional game nowadays who smokes.

"Any young person who wants to be a professional sportsman should bear that in mind." He was backed by Will Carling, the England rugby union captain, who added: "I don't know any of the English rugby team that smokes. So I would recommend not smoking to anyone who wants to be an amateur sportsman."

Drink 'not evidence of reckless driving'

A MOTORIST involved in a *fatal accident while over the* legal alcohol limit had his conviction of reckless driving quashed by the High Court in London yesterday.

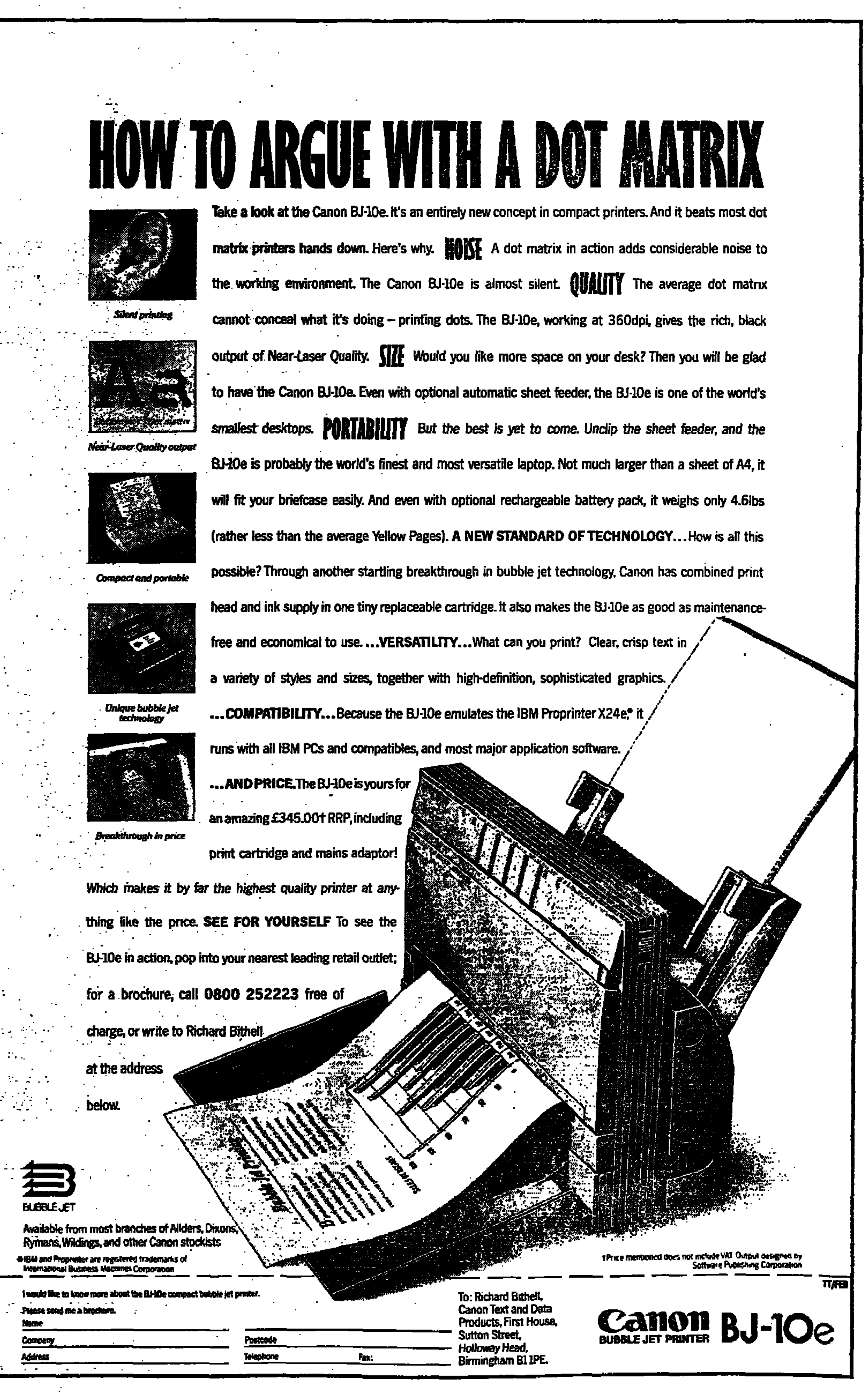
Two judges held that a drink-driver, even if obviously over the limit, is not automatically guilty of reckless driving in the absence of other evidence. Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Roch allowed an appeal by Paul Hand against his conviction by magistrates at Fareham, Hampshire, in December 1989. His £250 fine was set aside.

The magistrates found that Mr Hand, of Porchester, Hampshire, had drunk between five and eight pints of lager. He was arrested while walking down a street for allegedly using obscene language and was released in the early hours.

While driving his car home, he was involved in a collision with a cyclist who died from his injuries. Mr Hand was arrested again and found to have a breath-alcohol count of 54 against a legal limit of 35.

The magistrates argued that a person who drank five to eight pints of lager and drove a car, even after five hours had passed, created an obvious risk of causing serious injury to other road users.

The judges ruled however that the fact of drink-driving by itself did not satisfy the law on reckless driving. Mr Hand's conviction of drink-driving, with a £200 fine and three-year disqualification, still stands.



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Automatic jail sentence for police attacks rejected

By Peter Mulligan

VIOLENCE

AN ATTEMPT by a group of Conservative backbenchers to introduce a three-month mandatory prison sentence for anyone convicted of assaulting a police officer was rejected by the government in the Commons last night.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, said that if the criminal justice system was working properly, the police would be getting exactly the sort of protection that everyone felt they should have. The courts had the powers and clear guidance from the Court of Appeal on sentencing.

In 1989 there were about 37,000 convictions for assaults causing actual bodily harm. Ten per cent of cases ended in prison sentences.

The problem was that the figures did not show how many of those cases were assaults on police officers. It would therefore not be right to proceed on inadequate information.

However, he undertook to carry out a six-month survey starting on June 1 to ascertain how many court cases involved assaults on the police and how many resulted in a prison sentence. "If we find the situation is not as we would want, we will have to take action", he said. He would report back to the House and publish the figures.

Michael Shersby, the Tory MP for Uxbridge and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, had moved a new clause during the report stage of the Criminal Justice bill calling for the mandatory sentence in cases where actual bodily harm was caused.

He said that Parliament must show it would not tolerate those "who punch and kick, stab and slash police officers" or a situation "where women officers have their hair torn from their scalps and their breasts beaten by any person who thinks they can do so with impunity".

The police officer patrolling the down town areas of British towns and cities were at great risk, he said. So were those in country areas where, as almost single handed they dealt with drunken rowdies after closing time, they were frequently assaulted.

Robert Maclennan, for the Liberal Democrats, opposed the new clause on the ground that people would resist arrest more fiercely if they knew a prison sentence was waiting.

"Persons stopped [by the police] would go to greater lengths to avoid being taken into custody and the risk of assault would be greater than it is at present." The clause would be counter-productive.

John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale, cast doubt on the appropriateness of the clause. A former policeman, he described how he had been kicked extremely violently "in a very uncomfortable place" when attending an incident in the foyer of a West End hotel. The perpetrator was a distinguished Scottish teacher. "Are we saying that man should automatically go to prison for three months?"

Patten: promised to gather information

● A clause extending supervision for sex offenders was accepted without a division.

Mr Patten said that the clause would allow sex offenders released early from prison to be supervised until the end of their original sentence was reached.

Sex offenders who are not sent to prison could have their attendance at probation centres extended beyond the present 60-day maximum.

Six more NHS trust hopefuls

A further six hospitals and national health service units have been given permission to become NHS trusts, William Waldegrave, the health sercretary, announced in a Commons written reply. That means that 129 units have been invited formally to apply to become self-governing trusts under the government's health service reform programme.

The six are: West Berkshire Health Services, Ealing Acute Hospital, York Health Services, Lancaster Acute Hospital Services, Lancaster Priority Services, and Bath and Wiltshire Community Services.

Fire rules

The government promised yesterday to fight proposals by the European Commission which, it claims, will lower the fire safety regulations covering furniture. Edward Leigh, the junior minister, told MPs that British regulations were good and said that the number of fire deaths had fallen since their introduction.

Debt to UK

Developing countries owe the United Kingdom government about £7.3 billion, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said in a Commons written reply. In 1989-90, Britain received about £150 million in interest charges from developing countries.

New peer

Professor Brian Griffiths was introduced in the Lords as Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach. He is chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies and was economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister. Debate on the Gulf war on an SNP motion. Lords (3): Planning and Compensation bill, report, second day.

Rifkind: Hoaxers are facing severe penalties

£130m is saved on defence

THE government has saved an estimated £130 million on 40 defence projects worth a total of £13 billion under the new competitive culture for awarding large contracts, Sir Peter Levene, the outgoing chief of defence procurement, told MPs yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The savings from the increase in competitive tendering and price-fixed contracts amounted to a cut of about 1 per cent in the original estimates of the projects over the past five years.

Appearing before the Commons public accounts committee, Sir Peter said that delivery times had also improved, with 28 of 37 of the largest defence contracts expected to be completed on time and only three likely to be delayed for more than a year. Nor would the delays add to the ministry's costs because they were on fixed-price contracts.

The report to the committee from the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, supports his evidence that the more commercial approach has led to better value for money in the £40 billion defence procurement budget over the past five years.

Random breath test undermined

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

DRINK-DRIVING

FIGURES produced yesterday in a parliamentary answer to Peter Bottomley, the former junior transport minister who led the campaign against drink-driving for three years, appeared to counter the case for random breath tests being pressed by an increasing number of MPs.

The Labour party is backing the introduction of random breath tests and the all-party parliamentary advisory council for transport safety has proposed amendments to the Road Traffic bill for random tests.

However, Mr Bottomley, who is not supporting the campaign, was told yesterday by Christopher Chope, minister for roads and traffic, that after the introduction of random breath tests in New South Wales, Australia, in 1982 the fall in the proportion of deaths among drivers who were over the limit was only 3 per cent. In Britain over the same period (1983-6) without random breath tests such deaths showed a fall of 9 per cent. Mr Bottomley said last night that the figures showed that campaigners were trying to bring about something that would not be as effective as the measures already in place and that would involve a huge increase in the number of tests.

He was told in further parliamentary replies that there was a weekly average of about 10,540 tests in Britain, with about 1,820 proving positive. In 37,000 of the positive tests, drivers were measured at more than twice the legal limit. The transport department says that the number of random breath tests required each week to detect 1,000 drivers above the legal limit but below twice the limit would be 116,000. To detect 1,000 drivers above twice the legal limit would require 625,000 tests a week, according to surveys conducted by the Road Research Laboratory last year.

NHS will grow by 4% next year

HEALTH SERVICE

REAL growth in the national health service will amount to 4 to 5 per cent in the coming financial year, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told MPs yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

Mr Waldegrave rejected suggestions from members of the cross-party Commons select committee on health that inflation and the impact of pay deals averaging 9 per cent would eat deeply into the £24.8 billion the government has allocated to the service for 1991-2.

MPs on the committee reminded Mr Waldegrave that the National Association of Health Authorities had estimated that health service prices would rise by 8.6 per cent in the next 12 months. But the health secretary said that that was an overestimate. Resources would be increased by 12.7 per cent and he was expecting real growth of 4 to 5 per cent rather than the 3 per cent suggested by the MPs.

However, the health secretary did concede that the slump in land sales was causing "sharp problems" for health authorities. Work would continue on hospitals already under construction, but there would not be many new projects started.

The property slump, which has reduced the money available to health authorities from selling surplus sites, produced some of the sharpest exchanges between committee members and the health secretary, who was making his first appearance before them. Nicholas Winterton, the Tory chairman, said that services to patients would be put at risk if authorities switched funds from revenue to capital accounts to keep building projects in being.

Mr Waldegrave replied that sometimes such transfers led to quicker treatment for patients by enabling managers to speed the opening of units.

Bomb hoaxers risking passengers' lives

By John Winder and Robert Morgan

TRANSPORT

BOMB hoaxers who have disrupted rail services for the past few days, particularly in London, were accused yesterday of putting lives at risk and warned that they face severe penalties.

In a Commons statement, **Malcolm Rifkind**, the transport secretary, said: "Those who make such hoax calls are acting in a criminal fashion. They are risking innocent people's lives and they will be liable to receive very severe punishment if they are identified and prosecuted."

He told MPs that since the the IRA's bombing of Victoria station on Monday, when one man was killed, British Transport police had dealt with about 85 hoax bomb threats and 55 suspect packages.

He appealed to the travelling public for continuing vigilance no matter how much disruption might result from a false alarm. Responding to questions, he said that the government would look sympathetically at requests for extra funds for security.

John Prescott, Labour transport spokesman, blamed much of the disruption of the past few days on lack of investment.

Labour MPs protested as Mr Rifkind dismissed Mr Prescott's critical remarks as sad and pathetic.

Responding to an Opposition call for a statement, Mr Rifkind said that London Underground had launched an inquiry into the incident on the Central Line in east London on Tuesday when several trains were stranded in a tunnel and the engine of one emitted smoke. Hundreds of passangers had to walk along the lines to safety.

Mr Prescott said that the events of the two days had not entirely been due to the IRA or the hoaxes. Some of the transport incidents could be attributed to inadequate equipment and its failure and to inadequacy of staff which had been reduced by thousands, impairing their ability to maintain security and deal with emergencies.

Those staff cuts were, at the government's request, to continue. He demanded a review of the financial framework of British Rail and the Underground. He told Mr Rifkind to end his obsession with privatisation and the miserable experiment of trying to run the capital's transport system without subsidies.

Mr Rifkind: "It was predictable that he should seek to use the events of the last couple of days caused by terrorist incidents, bomb hoaxes and other security matters, to make his ritual attacks on British Rail investment".

In the past Mr Prescott had suggested that British Transport police had been reduced in number, but there were more police officers on British Rail and London Underground now than in 1982.

Steven Norris (Epping Forest, C) said that Tuesday's events were by no means unique. Hardly a day went by without disruption. He suggested that Mr Rifkind should talk to London Underground management about their procedures for dealing with incidents, including hoaxes so that disruption was kept to a minimum.

Philip Goodhart (Beckenham, C) suggested calling in the army to provide guards at London mainline terminals until the bombers were caught. The army, he said, provided extra guards at Heathrow and rail commuters deserved as much protection as air passengers.

Mr Rifkind said that he would want to take the advice of the chief constable of the British Transport police, but he would draw his attention to the remarks.

Ian Taylor (Esher, C) said that, despite investment of £1 billion, British Rail still could not do the simple things correctly. They failed to communicate with travellers or arrange for the smooth change from trains to buses and Underground when journeys were interrupted.

Mr Rifkind said that British Rail would be giving considerable attention to the need to improve the present unsatisfactory level of information provided.

Mildred Gordon (Poplar and Bow, Lab) said that with modern communications it should not have been difficult to inform passengers about what had happened in the east London incident so that they were not left in the dark and increasing heat for many hours.

Mr Rifkind said that she was right to express that concern. But once the current had been switched off, passengers had to be taken more than a mile to the nearest station. That inevitably caused considerable problems as well as fatigue, particularly for elderly passengers.

David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield, C) said that thousands of his constituents had been inconvenienced not just over the past two or three weeks, but for the past two or three years and they were not prepared to put with it any longer. "Is it not time that the management of British Rail and London Underground were sacked?"

Mr Rifkind, while sympathising with travellers, said that the chairmen of both organisations had only recently taken up their posts.

Review 'starting at wrong end'

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

POLL TAX

ONE of the leading backbench Conservative experts on local government warned ministers yesterday that its review of local government was in danger of running off the rails.

David Wilshire, vice-chairman of the backbench Tory environment committee, said that he was full of unease about the direction of the review chaired by the prime minister.

Mr Wilshire's comments came in the wake of the disclosure that Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is pressing his cabinet colleagues to replace the poll tax with a property tax adjusted for the number of people living in a property.

The Spelthorne MP, a former council leader in Avon, said he believed that ministers were putting the cart before the horse. Instead of starting with the financing of town halls, the government ought to determine first the best structure for councils, what services they should deliver and what form local democracy should take. Only then should ministers turn their minds to ways of paying for the system.

Mr Wilshire said that Mr Heseltine had been right to start by seeking bipartisan agreement about the future of local government and by introducing temporary palliatives, such as more generous transitional relief, to deal with the most unpopular features of the poll tax. However, he was concerned about the next step, which appeared to be a lurch into the area of finance.

"We are starting at the end and not the begining. Finance comes last and it appears to be coming first. If we do go down this track, we will repeat the mistakes of the last 30 years. We have to start with boundaries, then we have to deal with services, then with local democracy and only then ask how you finance it."

Job seekers should be shown files

By Sheila Gunn
Political Correspondent

EMPLOYMENT

JOB candidates should have the right to see confidential files supplied by a vetting agency such as the Economic League if they are rejected as potential subversives, the Commons employment committee said yesterday.

Agencies holding blacklists of political and trade union activists should also be controlled by a new licensing law and a code of practice.

The committee questioned the Economic League, which has been accused of holding inaccurate information, about its manual files on alleged subversives. But the Conservative MPs, who hold a majority, objected to the league's being singled out for criticism in the report, *Recruitment Practices*. Although the league told the committee that other agencies provided a similar service to employers, it failed to produce details.

The report states: "We believe that the recommendations we have made would go some way to lessening the disadvantages faced by those who apply for jobs at companies using the services of organisations who provide information about them".

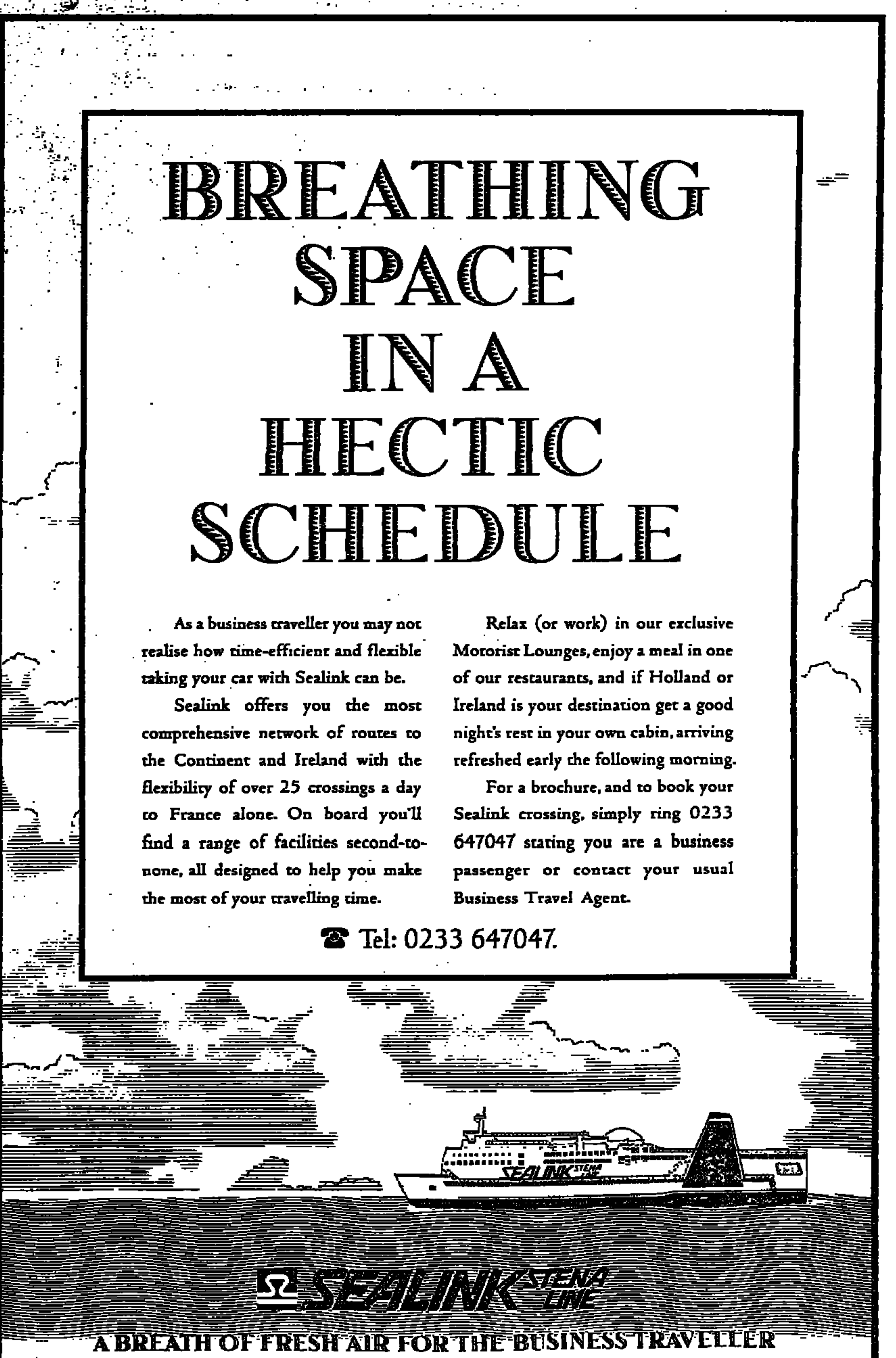
The committee also asked for application forms requiring candidates to give details of criminal convictions to find out if the convictions were for short sentences or minor penalties that are "spent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Five million people in the United Kingdom have a criminal record and the committee was worried that not enough job candidates or employers know about the Act. The MPs want information about its operation to be included in the *Wiping the Slate Clean* document handed to former offenders on release from prison.

The committee also found that employers who recruit more than seven million workers a year used varied methods that sometimes led to unintentional discrimination. Although the MPs did not support tougher anti-discrimination laws, as proposed by Labour, they have asked the government to act more quickly on recommendations from the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

"In view of the signs of a decrease in the effect of discrimination on employment levels of disadvantaged groups, we recognise that there is a case for reliance on persuading employers that equal opportunity policies are in their own interests and on spreading good practice."

The report added: "We are however disappointed that the government appears to take so long to consider proposals from the two bodies which have, by law, the specific task of reviewing anti-discrimination legislation."

House of Commons employment committee second report: *Recruitment Practices* (Stationery Office; £5.15).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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE BUSINESS TRAVELLER

Clarke sets out new targets for careers education in schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday called for improvements in careers education in schools, suggesting four basic entitlements for every pupil.

The proposals, made in a speech on further education, are Mr Clarke's first on a topic to which he attaches great importance. The minister said that the best careers and placement services ran well, and that the rest needed to rise to that standard.

Between the ages of five and 16, Mr Clarke said, pupils should receive general education about careers and the world of work; there should be opportunities for discussions with a careers specialist at 14 and 16; the interviews, linked to records of achievement, should result in an action plan; and there should be unbiased guidance about provision in schools and colleges, as well as the career paths available locally.

Mr Clarke urged schools to work with the careers service to meet the four objectives, bringing in local authorities and training and enterprise councils where necessary. He also favoured publication of career destinations of those leaving school or college at 16, 17 or 18. Regulations requiring schools to publish examination results in a standard format will be published shortly, Mr Clarke said. Similar requirements will follow for further education colleges.

Mr Clarke, in an address to the annual conference in London of the Association of Colleges in Further and Higher Education, emphasised the value of vocational courses as a route to higher education. The level of course, rather than whether it is academic or vocational, should be the yardstick for entry to degrees.

He said that ministers were determined to maintain the integrity of A-levels and vocational qualifications as separate routes to higher education. "They must develop in parallel to be of use to the widest possible range of students," he said. "We need to make the general public and employers, higher education institutions and young people in particular, familiar with them."

Some courses approved by as National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) remained too narrow, Mr Clarke said. "We need more broad-based NVQs, for young people especially," he said. "I also want to see ways of making assessment more practicable for full-time students in FE and schools."

☐ Universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education will have £35 million of their budgets held back until they reach pay settlements satisfactory to the government, Mr Clarke said yesterday in a Commons reply.

Mr Clarke wants the two higher education funding councils to prove that this year's pay deals add flexibility, and reward performance and productivity. There will also have to be evidence that agreements on staff appraisal are being implemented.

Universities will have £22 million withheld, and polytechnics and colleges £13 million. Similar amounts were held back pending satisfactory pay settlements last year. The £12 million withheld from polytechnics then was released only last month.

A site officer displaying a miner's shovel uncovered at the 1450 mine workings in Leicestershire

Discovery challenges pit history

MEDIEVAL coal-workings found in Leicestershire will lead to a rewriting of mining history. They show that sophisticated methods were used in 1450, at least 100 years earlier than previously thought (Craig Seton writes).

The remains of 100ft shafts, coal-cutting galleries and oak pit props show evidence of the oldest accurately dated deep mines to be uncovered in England. They have been found at a British Coal opencast site at Coleorton, near Ashby de la Zouch.

Archaeologists say that the finds contradict an assumption that the arrival of German miners in the 16th century revolutionised mining in England. Tree-ring dating of the pit props by Nottingham university showed that they were made from timber felled as early as 1450. Two wooden shovels, coal baskets, jointed timber frames to support the shafts, and a leather boot have also been found.

The discovery was made after aerial photographs showed dozens of medieval earthworks around the site. Fred Hartley, the Leicestershire museum service's archaeological survey officer, said yesterday: "There must have been professional, full-time miners working here in the 15th century. It bears the hallmarks of being a sophisticated industry."

Appeal could end legal chaos over rape in marriage

The law on whether a husband can legally rape his wife is in disarray. Tomorrow's test case before the Court of Appeal could reshape legal rulings, Frances Gibb writes

CAN a man be guilty of raping his wife? Until recently the answer was clearly no. For more than 200 years, husbands have been immune from any prosecution for rape of their wives.

In recent months, however, courts have started to re-examine the law. But the spate of prosecutions where husbands have been charged with raping their wives have brought conflicting rulings, with three High Court judges reaching startlingly different conclusions.

The issue is also splitting lawyers. Professor Glanville Williams, writing this week in the *New Law Journal*, says: "A charge of rape is too powerful ... a weapon to put into the wife's hands." A more appropriate offence, he argues, would be assault, dealt with summarily. "We are speaking of a biological activity, strongly baited by nature, which is regularly and pleasurably performed on a consensual basis."

Occasionally a husband continues to exercise what he regards as his right when his wife refuses him, "the refusal most probably resulting from the fact that the pair have had a tiff".

Professor Williams concludes that what is wrong with the husband's demand is not so much the act requested but its timing or the manner of the demand. "The fearsome stigma of rape is too great a punishment for husbands who use their strength in these circumstances," he says.

Last autumn, however, the Law Commission, the government's law reform body, came to the opposite conclusion: rape, it said in a working paper, should be an offence even when couples are living together. The immunity enjoyed by husbands since at least 1736 should be swept away.

Tomorrow the judges of the Court of Appeal have a chance to review the state of the law. The appeal arises from the conviction in Leicester crown court last July of a man aged 37 for raping his wife. It was the first case in England and Wales in which a husband was accused of rape where there was no legal separation or court order prohibiting him from molesting her.

The present law has its origins in a statement by Lord Chief Justice Hale, who wrote in 1736 that a wife had "by mutual matrimonial consent and contract" given up herself "in this kind unto her husband which she cannot retract". That declaration stood untested until a case in 1949, more than 200 years later.

The case confirmed Hale's view but said that there were exceptions to this statute law, namely where there were court orders between the couple such as decrees nisi, judicial separation, or non-molestation. The question in the Leicester case was whether the wife's consent to sexual intercourse can be revoked, not only by a court order or mutual consent, but also by a unilateral withdrawal from cohabitation. Mr Justice Owen held that it could, creating a new exception to the husband's immunity from rape.

Then came a second case, last September, at Sheffield, before Mr Justice Simon Brown, who argued that the husband's common law immunity from rape charges should be ended altogether. The husband was later acquitted.

In a third case, however, Mr Justice Rougier in Middlesbrough looked at the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 which defined rape as "unlawful sexual intercourse without consent". He argued that not only did parliament define rape, it crystallised the common law exceptions to the husband's immunity, and it was not open to the judges in the courts to create further common law exceptions to the statute and extend the scope of the immunity.

Brown: husbands should be subject to rape charges

The Court of Appeal now has the chance to review the state of the law and make the first authoritative and binding ruling since Hale. Any ruling will have a significant impact on the Law Commission's final report. It could even make redundant action by parliament on the key issue of whether husbands can rape wives, although there may still be a need for legislation on issues such as whether the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions is needed for a prosecution.

Above all, it could open the floodgates to a new category of prosecution. Some eight cases are already pending, awaiting the Court of Appeal ruling. Research by Granada's *World in Action* television programme has shown that one in seven married or divorced women claims to have been raped by her husband: a figure of 1.37 million nationally. Marital rape could become a burgeoning new category of crime.

Healthy water to cost more

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NEW technologies to take pesticides out of drinking water are likely to cost the country millions of pounds, could lead to higher bills and may be as hazardous as the chemicals they are designed to remove, according to a water company chief.

Peter McIntosh, director of water and environmental science at Thames Water and former head of the environment department's water quality division, said yesterday that water companies were planning to invest millions of pounds on new activated granulated carbon (AGC) filtration and ozone treatment systems in an attempt to meet strict European Community drinking water standards.

Other technologies being examined included hydrogen peroxide and bacterial treatments. "Chlorination of water can lead to potentially undesirable products," Mr McIntosh told a conference in London on pesticides and weed control.

"We are now grappling with the question of whether AGC, ozone and hydrogen peroxide create problems. We are forever chasing our tails," he added.

Divorce in only 18 days

THE quickest "quickie" divorce in recent history is expected next Monday when a couple are granted a decree absolute after 18 days (Frances Gibb writes).

Even a so-called "quickie" divorce usually take four to six months. In the case of the Morgans, Peter Singer, QC, the deputy High Court judge, threw formalities to the winds. The couple, who had originally agreed to obtain a divorce by living apart for two years, went before Mr Singer on February 7.

The wife was seeking leave to take the children abroad. She was seven months pregnant by the man she lives with and asked if the divorce proceedings could also be dealt with there and then. She wanted to go abroad while she still could before the birth on May 1.

Mr Morgan agreed to petition for divorce on the basis of his wife's adultery. Her partner, who was present, agreed to confirm the adultery and there was an "old-style" divorce hearing. The judge scrapped the usual three to four months between the hearing and the decree nisi, and agreed that the decree absolute, which usually takes another six weeks, could be applied for on February 25.

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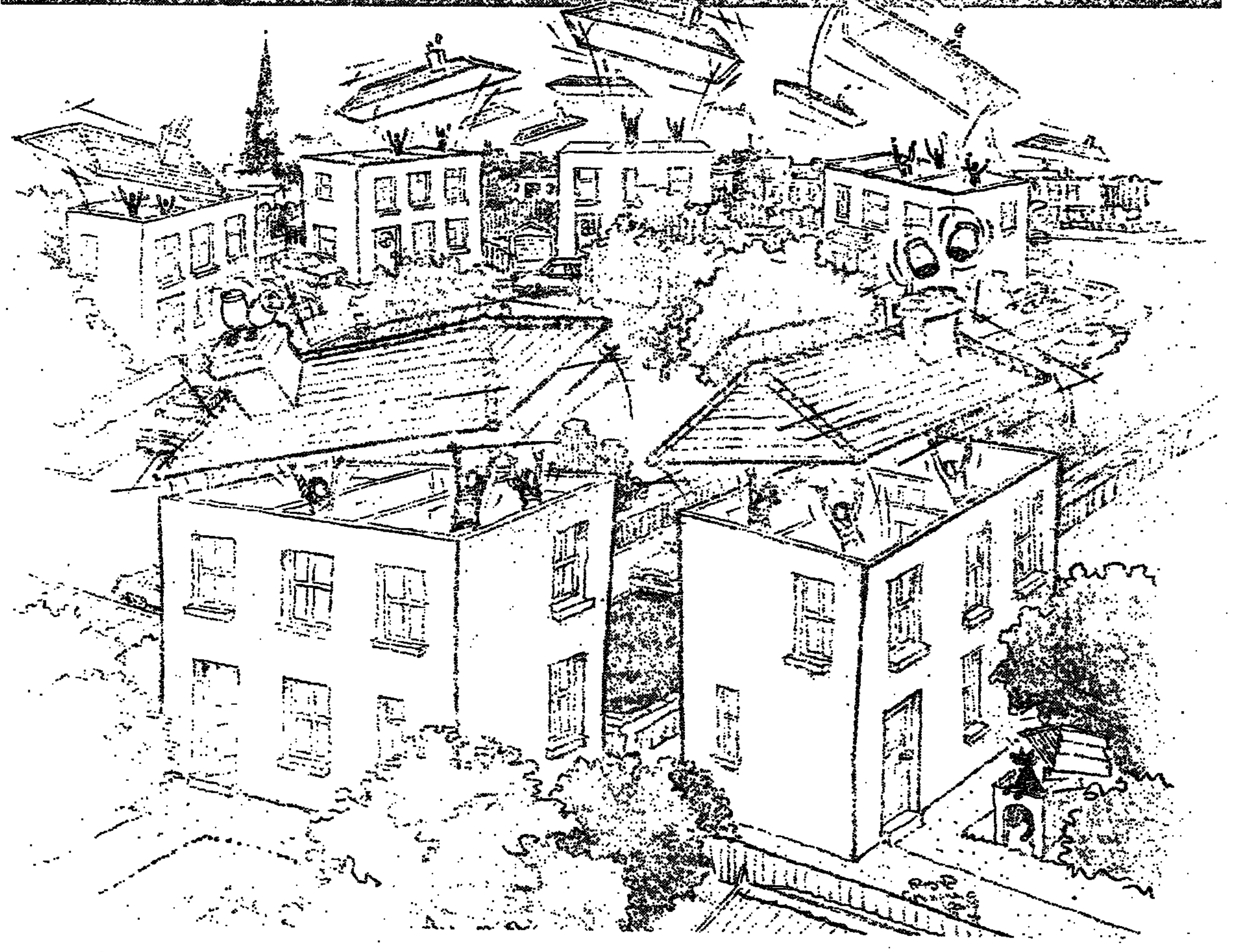

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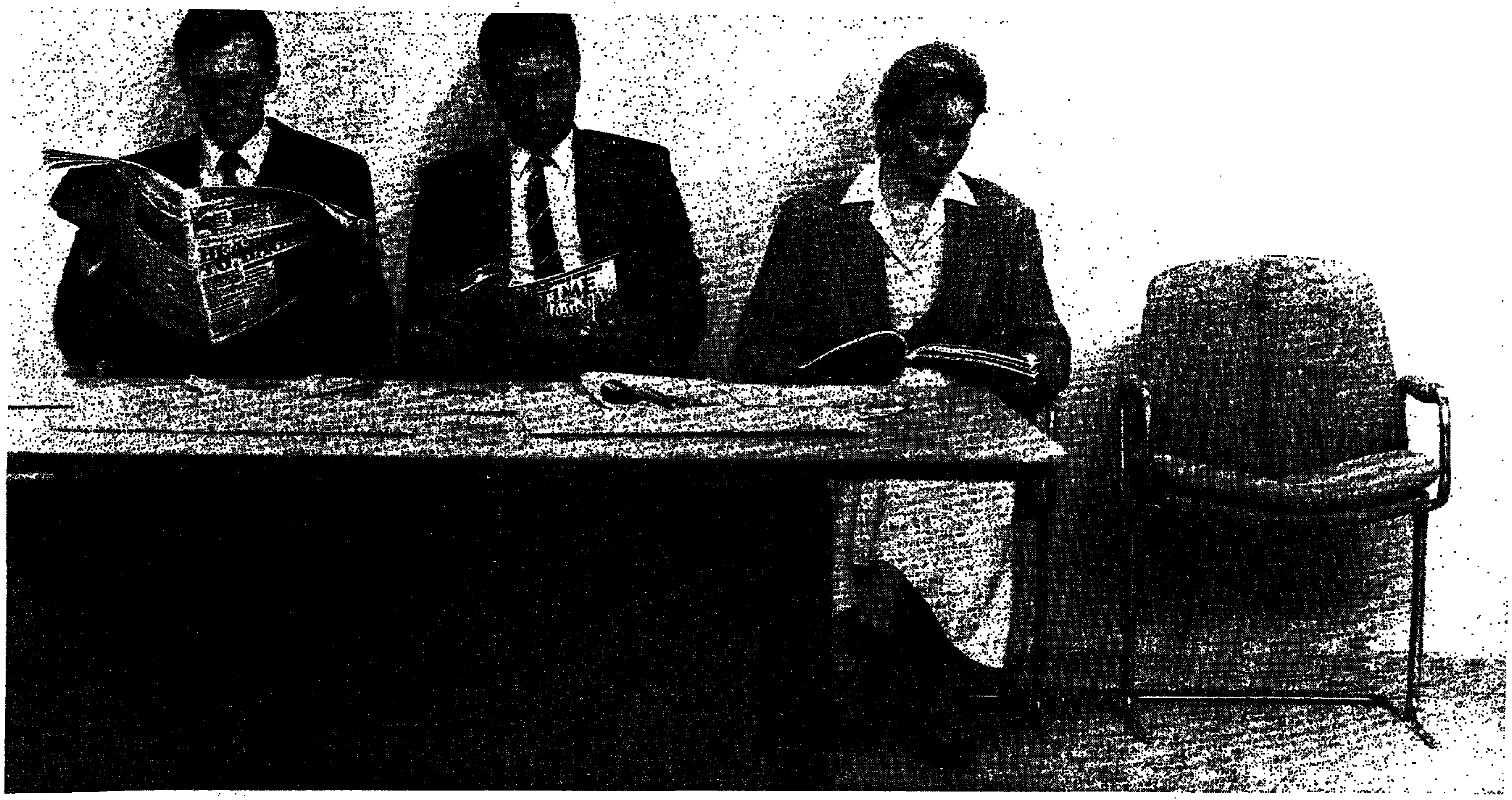
Why has the best person for the job gone to work for someone else?



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Think-tank accuses Charity Commission of political bias

By Paul Wilkinson

A FREE-market think-tank has accused the Charity Commission of being politically biased because it has taken too long to complete an investigation of Oxfam.

In a report published today, the International Freedom Foundation says that the slowness of the commission's enquiry into the alleged political activites of the Third World charity contrast with "the speed at which charitable status was denied to the Thatcher Foundation".

The commission, however, rejected the criticism. It said yesterday that the ten months it had spent on the Oxfam enquiry was not exceptional, and that the Thatcher Foundation had not been refused charity status. "The application is simply on hold while the foundation's trustees comply with a request for further information, which is quite normal in these cases. No final decision has been made."

The IFF report says that the commission opened its Oxfam enquiry in April last year after the charity began a campaign supporting sanctions against South Africa, and that it still has some months to run. The Thatcher Foundation made its application for charitable status, which brings handsome benefits, particularly income tax concessions, shortly after Mrs Thatcher resigned in November. The report adds: "It all leads to the suspicion that the commission is at best in need of a radical shake-up of its structures and at worst is politically biased itself."

The commission said that the Oxfam enquiry was not a particularly long one. Some took more than two years. "It is by its very nature time-consuming in the clearing and evaluation of a large quantity of information. It is essential that the commissioners possess all the relevant information before making a decision, otherwise they run the risk of the decision being ill-judged."

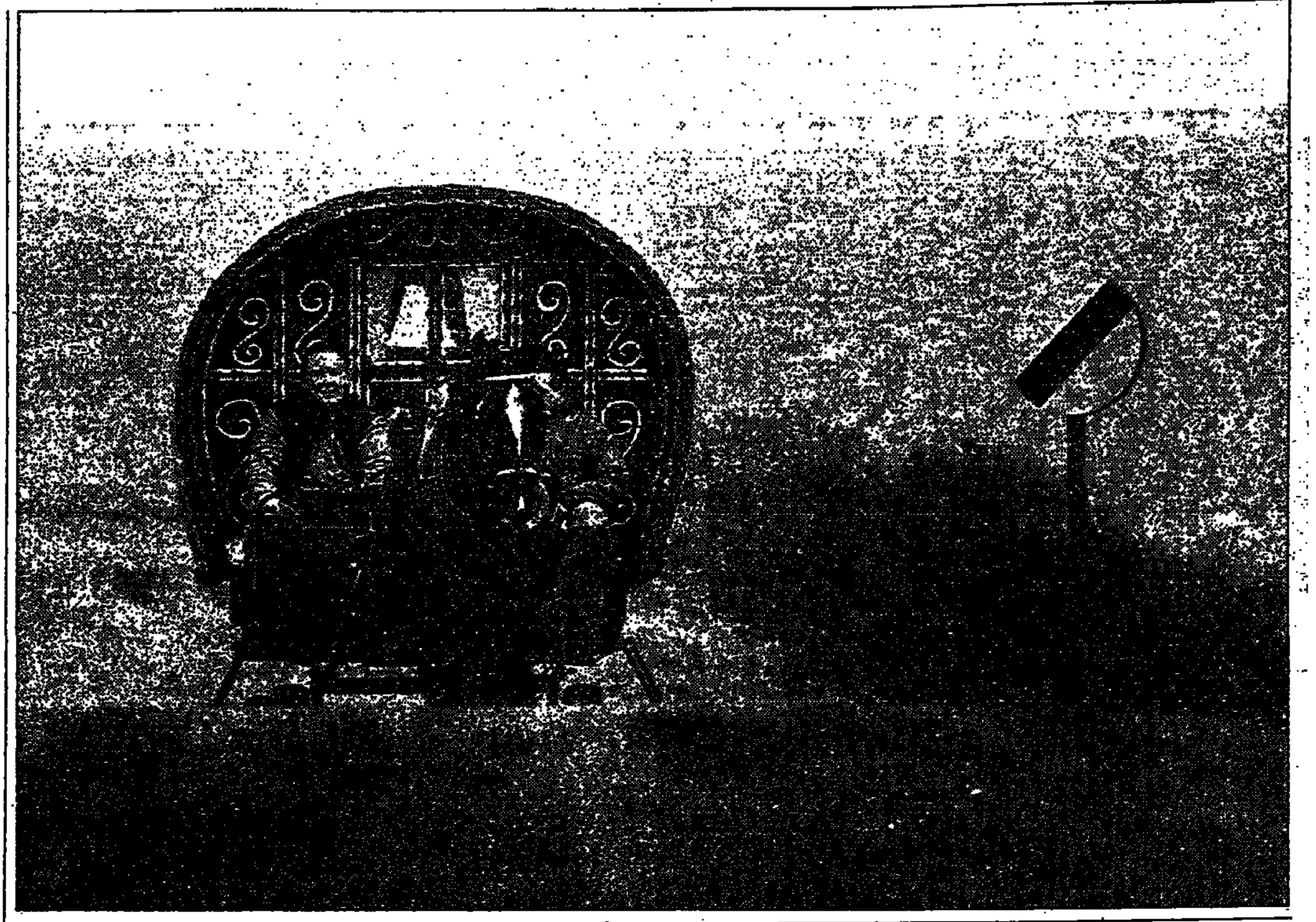
Political activity by a charity could breach its status and the commission issues a guide to what might constitute a transgression, but it accepts that it is not possible to lay down "hard and fast" rules. "We try to avoid too much adherence to red tape as it gets in the way of what the charity is about, getting aid to the right place with as little hindrance as possible."

In 1989 there were 170,000 registered charities in England and Wales. The commission sees its duty as ensuring that trustees administer a charity's funds in the manner intended by the donor. Removal of charitable status is a last resort. Usually the trustees are removed or forced to comply with the original aim of the charity's founders.

Formal enquiries are usually carried out by a senior member of the commission's staff and the results are put before the six commissioners, who make a decision.

Charitable status has never been defined in law but the commission works to a 1891 High Court judgment in which a charity was described as a trust for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion or purposes beneficial to the community.

FRANK BRADFORD



Leisurely journey: Len Young and his horsedrawn gypsy caravan reach the end of the open road and head for the village of Ruthwell, near Dumfries, Scotland

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Findings on violence and porn challenged

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

A HOME OFFICE report that found no causal links between pornography and sexual violence was challenged yesterday by a group of academics and workers in the fields of child abuse, women's rights and sex crime.

Dr Catherine Itzin, a research fellow in sociology at Essex university, told a Commons press conference: "I could not make head or tail of the Home Office report." She said that the United States, Canadian and Australian governments had accepted the negative effects of pornography and their courts had accepted evidence of pornography-related violence.

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, who has presented a Commons bill that would restrict the sale of pornographic magazines and videos to licensed outlets, said that the report by Dr Guy Cumberbatch and Dr Dennis Howitt had been "highly selective" and had overlooked important research.

Campaigners from a variety of groups demanded further studies into the use of pornography by sexual offenders, its role in child sexual abuse and its effect on attitudes and behaviour.

They called for obscenity laws to be replaced with legislation against pornography which defined it in terms of "what it is and what it does".

The campaigners complained that the report had accepted a decline in the seizure of obscene publications as evidence of a decline in pornography.

The representatives attributed fewer seizures to decreased efforts by police who were frustrated by the failure of courts to convict.

Meningitis vaccination drive after boy's death

By Thomson Prentice
Medical Correspondent

MORE than 900 pupils and teachers at an Exeter school have been immunised against meningitis after a fellow pupil died and four others were admitted to hospital with the disease.

Roger Spray, aged 15, of Heavitree, Exeter, died in the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital on Tuesday night. Two girls from the school, St Peter's Church of England High School, are in intensive care, another pupil has been detained and the fourth has been allowed home.

All pupils and teachers have been given meningitis vaccinations and antibiotics. Throat swabs taken from them are being analysed by health laboratory staff to find how many are carrying the bacteria that causes the disease.

The school was closed for half-term during the immunisation and screening, and a decision on whether it will re-open on schedule next week will be based on the laboratory results, expected tomorrow.

The bacteria causing the type of meningococcal meningitis that affected the pupils are carried in the nose and throat of about one person in ten, and are spread by coughs and sneezes. Young children and adolescents are most vulnerable to the disease, which strikes rapidly. If the bacteria enter the blood stream, they can cause inflammation of the meninges, membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Early treatment with antibiotics is highly effective. About 200 children in Britain have died of the disease in the past ten years.

A new meningitis vaccine being tested will, if results are satisfactory, be introduced as part of routine immunisation in October of next year.

Damages for MP

Kenneth Warren, Tory MP for Hastings and Rye, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations in a newspaper of links with a telephone marketing company accused of sinister "mind games" practices.

Mr Warren, aged 64, is a director of Programmes Ltd, which with it's sister company Programmes Training Ltd, also received undisclosed damages. The claims were made in February last year in the now defunct *Sunday Correspondent*, which has apologised to Mr Warren and agreed damages.

Benefit arrests

Sixteen people were arrested yesterday in a series of dawn raids on homes in Liverpool after a six-month enquiry by police into alleged bogus social security benefit claims.

Pesticide fine

William Lowe, aged 64, of Wishaw, Warwickshire, was yesterday fined a total of £1,000 for causing pesticides from his farm to leak into a pool on the Belfry golf course near Birmingham, killing 144 fish. Sutton Coldfield magistrates also ordered Lowe to pay £276 compensation.

Turning on heat

Hundreds of palm trees have been planted in the Cornish seaside towns of St Ives, Lelant and Penzance to make holidaymakers believe that temperatures are warmer than they actually are.

Cattle approval

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has approved plans for a £100 million cattle market alongside the M1 at Crick, Northamptonshire.

Husband held

Detectives were yesterday questioning Robert Miles, of St George, Bristol, after a post mortem examination showed that his wife Heidi, aged 21, died from severe head injuries and not from burns and smoke inhalation after a fire at their home.

Move to CID

Surinder Singh, aged 34, the Asian police officer who won his fight to prove he was barred from joining the CID because of his colour, is to become a detective on Monday, based in Nottingham.

Estate millions

A total of £19 million has been approved for improvements to the Castlemilk housing estate in Glasgow and West Hailes estate, Edinburgh, on condition that private finance and local people are involved.

Found hanged

A construction worker, aged 27, was found hanged in woods yesterday after he disappeared from work at a quarry site at Maidstone, Kent.

هكذا من الأصل

Slovenian veto on federal law heralds break-up of Yugoslavia

Ljubljana has defied Belgrade by endorsing proposals to sever legal links with the other Yugoslav republics, Dessa Trevisan writes

Kucan: wants talks now to dissolve federation

SLOVENIA voted yesterday to give local laws precedence over federal legislation, taking the first formal steps towards independence. The Slovene parliament also defied federal warnings and threatening noises from the Yugoslav army to propose an 11-point plan to split Yugoslavia.

At a session in the regional capital, Ljubljana, the Slovene parliament voted to amend the republic's constitution, invalidating Yugoslav laws in Slovenia and laying the basis for creating a fully independent monetary system.

The proposal to break up Yugoslavia will widen the rift with the federal authorities in Belgrade. Slovenia has been threatening to secede unless it is given more independence since ending 45 years of communist rule in free elections last April.

"We are proceeding from the fact that Yugoslavia has disintegrated politically and economically as a joint federative state," Milan Kucan, the Slovenian president, told the parliament. "We propose that negotiations for the dissolution of the current Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia begin immediately," he said.

But the Slovene move still does not amount to a formal secession. The vote yesterday helped prepare the legal grounds for a formal break with Yugoslavia, a federation of six republics created in 1918 after the first world war.

The Slovene plan will be now presented to the other five Yugoslav republics during talks on the future shape of the country. But the vote has further complicated Yugoslavia's chaotic situation and seems to render any future accord still more unlikely. A Zagreb weekly magazine said that, as from yesterday, Yugoslavia had ceased to exist in the form established since the war.

Talks on the future shape of the country are certain to fail since Serbia has rejected any suggestion of Yugoslavia being founded on a new confederal structure of a loose association of full sovereign states.

The army, too, continues to cling to its former, privileged position and is indulging in sabre-rattling to pressure independent-minded republics, especially in Croatia, where it has accused the leadership of planning an armed mutiny. The army prosecutor in Croatia has repeated demands for the arrest of the republic's defence minister, Martin Spegelj, a former general. In the federal parliament, the deputy federal defence minister, Admiral Stane Brovet, has accused Croatian authorities of whipping up hostilities against the armed forces and of failing to hand over Mr Spegelj.

Despite the vote, Mr Kucan has taken pains to emphasise that Slovenia is not closing the door to negotiations with the rest of Yugoslavia. Talks between the leaders of the six republics and the eight-man state presidency are to resume tomorrow in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Mr Kucan, however, admitted before the vote yesterday, that the move being taken was to endorse steps towards the dissolution of Yugoslavia's federal system. He said the federal system, which emerged from the war and as a result of an accord between Yugoslavia's constituent republics, no longer safeguarded the rights of the republics. Slovenia's proposal, he said, was therefore to annul it.

Should other republics wish to go along with Slovenia, they could strike an alliance of sovereign states, and while the negotiations proceed, the federal government could act as a moderator.

Ante Markovic, the prime minister of Yugoslavia, whose government is under attack from all sides and is trying to hold the country together, condemned Yugoslavia's local politicians. He said that they only cared about sabre-rattling, anarchy and inflation in order to cover up their own failings.

Slovenia's cessation seems to have been taken for granted, at least by the hardline leader of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic. Mr Kucan, however, struck a note of apprehension when he met the press yesterday by saying that the army still remained a threat. He accused the military establishment of harbouring ambitions to be the arbiter in shaping Yugoslavia's future. "The army has the potential force to impose its decision even if people do not accept it," Mr Kucan said.

Serbia's present communist regime relies heavily on the military and it has shown no inclination to concede on the issue of federation or confederation. It has insisted that Serbia would claim territories if Yugoslavia were split into sovereign confederal states.

Emotions between Serbia and Croatia have been whipped up recently to the extent that old suspicions and animosities have erupted and spread across the two republics, and they are now manifested as bitterly as ever. In the current atmosphere of recrimination, it is hard to see how the two peoples can live together peacefully again.

Kremlin unleashes vitriolic campaign to vilify Yeltsin

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday deployed some of the heaviest guns in his propaganda arsenal to head off Boris Yeltsin's televised call for his resignation. The agenda of the Soviet parliament was turned upside down to accommodate speaker after indignant speaker, who rushed forward to accuse the president of the Russian Federation of everything from "poor taste" to "inciting civil war".

A special committee was set up to marshal the vitriolic diatribes into a formal protest and by the end of the day parliament had approved a resolution accusing Mr Yeltsin of acting unconstitutionally, and calling on Russian and Soviet state and elected bodies to "consolidate their position" to prevent further aggravation of the situation. While the resolution was milder than many expected, evening television viewers were given the full benefit of the earlier stage-managed oratory in a specially extended news programme.

The official media were also harnessed to the campaign. A signed article on the front page of the official Communist party paper, *Pravda*, accused Mr Yeltsin of seeking confrontation and inciting Russians to break with the centre. The commentator described Mr Yeltsin's broadcast as "unhelpful and destructive". He went on: "Most right-thinking people will conclude that this irresponsible incitement to open confrontation will lead to the collapse of the union, to the deepening and sharpening of the crisis and to untold social cataclysms."

A second article said that the broadcast had "destroyed the myth of Yeltsin as saviour of the fatherland" and accused him of remaining in spirit always in opposition. It concluded: "All you can say is 'Oh, my poor country'."

Beneath the article was an appeal from the Moscow City Communist Party which must have been drafted even before Mr Yeltsin went on air, saying that it was "criminal to set the interests of Russia and those of the union against each other." The head of the Moscow party, Yuri Prokofyev, is regarded as one of Mr Gorbachev's chief allies.

Yesterday, Mr Prokofyev and three other members of what some believe to be the Russian "Committee of National Salvation" in waiting — the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the interior minister, Boris Pugo, and the head of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov — were seated side by side in parliament watching the anti-Yeltsin hysteria unfold.

The object of the Kremlin's wrath was on his way to Yaroslavl, an industrial town four hours' drive north of Moscow, where he was due to meet factory workers and visit a monastery.

The Russian parliament was meeting in committee and offered no formal response.

Out on the streets of Moscow, the people to whom the Russian leader had addressed his appeal responded in stunned disbelief to the unprecedented challenge to President Gorbachev. Some felt that civil war threatened. Others believed Mr Yeltsin's political career was already over. "It was distressing," said one. "That's the end." A middle-aged man said: "They will never let him on television again, that's for sure." Other people felt that the whole question was too sensitive to discuss.

Overall, a political decision seemed to have been taken to give the real content of the broadcast as little currency as possible. Tuesday night's main evening news failed to report it at all. The generally more adventurous late night news opened by saying that the "main news of the day" was Mr Yeltsin's interview, but then cited only the Moscow Communists' protest.

The uproar over Mr Yeltsin's broadcast completely obscured the introduction by the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, of his blueprint for restructuring the Soviet government. To the disappointment of radical deputies, the proposed structure retains many of the ministries and most of the responsibilities of the old one.

Mr Pavlov said that he favoured a step-by-step approach to administrative reform. It was not possible, he said, in Soviet conditions to move direct from the old system to a new one.

● **Georgia ultimatum:** The Soviet parliament threatened yesterday to impose a state of emergency on a breakaway region of Georgia where more than 30 people have been killed in bitter ethnic fighting this year.

The Supreme Soviet gave Georgia's nationalist leaders three days to extend voluntarily a state of emergency across South Ossetia and stop the bloodshed. It gave a warning that it would otherwise impose the measure without their consent. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 15

Germany clears de Maizière

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

LOTHAR de Maizière, the last prime minister of East Germany, can reclaim a place in the united German cabinet after being cleared of allegations that he worked for eight years under the codename "Czerny" as an informer of the Stasi secret police.

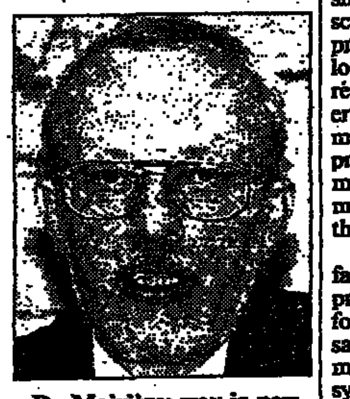
He resigned as minister without portfolio and deputy leader of the Christian Democrats (CDU) on December 17 after saying that he could neither confirm nor deny reports of keeping the hated Stasi informed of what was happening inside the Evangelical Church, one of the centres of resistance to the old communist regime.

Herr de Maizière, a vice-president of the East German federation of evangelical churches, admitted he had contacts with the Stasi, but insisted only in his capacity as a defence lawyer.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, was negotiating to form a new coalition when the unproved allegations came to light. He accepted the resignation reluctantly because he could not run the risk of having anyone in his cabinet with a Stasi past. He said at the time that Herr de Maizière retained his total confidence and he ordered Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, to investigate the Stasi files to establish the accuracy of the allegations.

The preliminary inquiry of Stasi records and files by Joachim Gauck, the interior ministry's special investigator, had shown that a valued informer, "Czerny", and Herr de Maizière could have been the same person. This was backed by evidence supplied by former Stasi agents. It was on the basis of this that Herr de Maizière resigned.

The full inquiry was needed to discover whether this evidence was real or had been forged to discredit the former prime minister, who had been so involved in destroying the old communist state. The full findings are expected to be released later this week, but yesterday Volker Rühe, the CDU general secretary, said: "As far as I know the allegations have not been confirmed." This would allow him to resume his posts, Herr Rühe said. This will go some way to correcting the imbalance of representation from the two parts of the country inside the party and the government. In cabinet, Herr de Maizière can give much-needed weight and experience to the east German presence, which comprises just three second-rank portfolios at present.



De Maizière: way is now clear to return to cabinet

Military aid: a woman reaches her destination in Athens by military truck, after three weeks of public transport strikes forced the government to call in the army

Greece causing EC despair

From PETER GUILFORD IN STRASBOURG

MENTION Greece to a European Community official in Brussels and he shakes his head in despair. The sick man of modern Europe is growing sicker and successive attempts by the nation's politicians to cure him have so far failed.

The United States is advising tourists not to go there for fear of Gulf-related violence, prompting mass holiday cancellations at a time when Greece is in a deepening a recession. There are fears in Brussels that, as Greece slips further into poverty, it will be marginalised from EC decision-making. This could tarnish the EC's image and slow the pace of economic and monetary union. Ironically, this is the Greek government's strongest card as it asks for more help from its partners.

To make matters worse, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands are urging Greece to resolve its dispute with Turkey over Cyprus, and have implied that future EC help might depend on this. Athens has said it will only lift its veto on an EC economic agreement with Turkey if Ankara shows willingness to remove some of its troops from the island.

Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, has promised once again to kick away the state crutches supporting the economy, and has won 2.2 billion ecus of aid in return. The loan will be confirmed by EC ministers on Monday.

Mr Mitsotakis's Christian Democrat party plans to reprivatise a large slice of the economy, possibly including telecommunications and electricity, and to reform the countries tax and social security systems. The government plans not to replace the 60,000 state employees it estimates will retire by the end of 1993. This, officials hope, will halve inflation down to ten per cent by 1993 and cut government spending from 23 to 11 per cent over the next three years.

Sources in Brussels have described this as "rather optimistic": a similar rescue package in 1985 collapsed. Mr Mitsotakis looks more determined than his predecessor, Andreas Papandreou, to turn the economy round. He even wants, by 1995, to follow Britain into the European exchange rate mechanism. But he has a parliamentary majority of just two with which to implement reforms which have brought down earlier governments. The Greeks are in a sombre mood: prices are rising and many of those in work can expect a cut in their incomes.

The prime minister may only succeed if the opposition socialist party, which at present looks weak, refrains from playing on dissatisfaction. "If the people are not provoked there will be no unrest," said one Greek commentator. "If they are, the reforms will collapse, Greece's financial credibility will disappear and the country will be pushed right to the margins of the Community."

Calcutta mob turns against film-makers

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CITY of joy or not, Calcutta has turned hostile towards a British film crew attempting to make a movie about the life of a rickshaw wallah. Ian Smith, the co-producer said yesterday that the film, based on Dominique Lapierre's novel *City of Joy*, will resume under increased security after an angry mob halted it.

Roland Joffe, the director, who made the Cambodian war film *The Killing Fields*, met officials after the crowd surrounded his crew on a busy street on Tuesday and forced them to stop shooting. During the first days of filming two weeks ago, the crew were involved in disputes with trade unionists and shopkeepers.

Mr Joffe and Mr Smith appealed this week for help from the British diplomatic mission in Calcutta. Anthony Abbott, the British deputy high commissioner, accompanied them to a meeting with senior state government officials yesterday.

Since filming started Mr Joffe has been trying to convince the West Bengal government that his movie would reveal Calcutta's warmth and passion rather than giving it a bad name. The Calcutta intelligensia hates Lapierre's book. They say it paints a bleak view of the fetid city, the only place in India where hand-pulled rickshaws are still allowed.

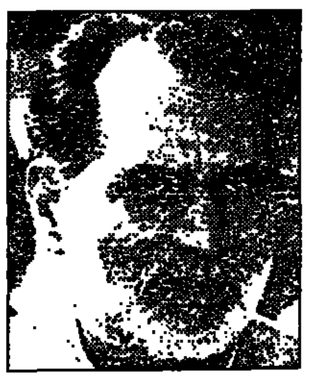
The first outbreak of trouble came in the first days of shooting. Calcutta trade unionists were holding their annual conference nearby and a filmhand moved one of their flags because it was in the way. An ensuing row nearly came to blows. Later, local shopkeepers interrupted shooting in support of demands for compensation of 1,000 rupees (£27) for loss of business.

To add to the film makers' troubles two Indian actors have resigned. One, Biplab Dasgupta, said the film would abuse and insult a great city and its people.

● **Budget delay:** The Indian government is surviving by a thread as it prepares for the opening of the budget session of parliament today. It has decided not to introduce a planned full budget next Thursday. The dwindling authority of the administration has been further undermined by the loss of five ministers dismissed from parliament by the speaker for infringing anti-defection regulations during a political realignment last November. They include V. C. Shukla, the foreign minister.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, appears anxious to manoeuvre himself into power, but has so far failed to muster enough support to enable him to form a coalition government.

Some Congress MPs believe Mr Gandhi might allow the government to be defeated in the coming budget session and many observers say the power games are making a mockery of India's democratic credentials. The ruling Janata Dal (Socialist) party did not exist three months ago. Chandra Shekhar, appointed prime minister in November, never held a government post.



Chandra Shekhar: prime minister at bay

Parisian WPC is shot dead

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH police appealed for witnesses after a woman police officer was shot and killed, the first such incident in France. Cathérine Choukron, aged 27, the mother of a six-month-old child, was shot by a gunman driving a stolen car, belonging to a tourist, in the outskirts of Paris early yesterday.

The officer was operating a radar speed trap on the edge of a northern stretch of the ring road. The motorist apparently opened fire on the police car without warning and then sped away. A bullet pierced the officer's neck, and she died an hour later. A male colleague was seriously wounded.

Pope invited

President Zhelev of Bulgaria has invited the Pope to visit his country and promised to investigate a 1981 assassination attempt against the Pope for which Bulgaria was blamed. He told a news conference in London a visit would be a great impetus to improving relations with the rest of the world. *(Reuter)*

Water rationed

Los Angeles — The city council here is to start rationing water next month. Residents and businesses in this drought-hit city of more than three million people will have to cut their water usage by 10 per cent after March 1 and by 15 per cent after April 1 or face hefty fines. *(Reuter)*

Law of the lash

Bara — Islamic scholars took turns to whip a convicted rapist sentenced to 100 lashes for kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old girl, as thousands of Pakistanis urged them to strike harder. He was held down as religious scholars wearing pistols took turns with a short leather whip. *(Reuter)*

Population plot

Cape Town — More than half the black high-school pupils polled here in a private survey on Aids believe contraception is a South African government plot to curb the growth of the black population. Zackie Achmat, co-ordinator of the Bellville Community Health Project, said 1,010 pupils were polled. *(Reuter)*

Colony hits at airport critics

SIR David Wilson, Hong Kong's governor, said yesterday that Chinese criticism of a port and airport project for the colony could add to its cost by souring the political climate.

Speaking to the Foreign Correspondents Club, Sir David said investor confidence in the proposed HK$127 billion (£8.3 billion) project could be damaged by comments from Peking, which has been sharply critical, saying it could drain the colony's coffers before it is handed back to China in 1997.

The project will straddle the handover period and potential private investors, whom the government is hoping will finance the bulk of the costs, will have to weigh the risks. "If you're looking for investment for something like an airport, that investor will inevitably look at the overall political climate. If there is worry about political comment on the airport, investors will load their bids with a certain insurance margin, and the cost to Hong Kong will be that much greater," he said.

With a third round of project consultative talks with Peking starting today Sir David said the Hong Kong government was committed to keeping China informed. He suggested that Hong Kong might consider building the project in stages, although it would not be scaled down.

"You would phase parts of that programme without scaling down the final scheme. If one tried to scale down the airport, you'd very quickly get to the point where there is no point in replacing Kai Tak," he said, referring to Hong Kong's international airport, which experts estimate will reach full capacity in the mid-1990s. "So in trying to plan for the future, it only makes sense if you plan something much bigger long-term, much more effective long-term, and much more economic long-term than Kai Tak," he said.

"How you phase the particular elements of that makes a great deal of difference to the cash flow of the project," he said, adding that Hong Kong was prepared to listen to views put forward by Peking. "If we are talking to the Chinese and explaining to them what we're doing. I see part of that process as being a willingness to listen to what they have got to say," he said.

Bernard Levin, page 14

Tibetan slant to an old tale

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE publishing company, concerned by American charges of racism, claimed this week that the name Sambo in its *Little Black Sambo* stories is not derogatory. Indeed, it is a complimentary name with which black people should be flattered, for in one Tibetan language it means "excellent".

The publishing company Komichi Shobo has distributed 15,000 pamphlets explaining the Tibetan derivation of the name and has urged others to re-examine a two-year-old voluntary ban on printing the book in Japan. Eleven Japanese publishers discontinued production of the stories in 1988 after criticism from a group of black American lawmakers who had cited an abundance of negative racial stereotypes in Japan.

The *Sambo and Hanna* range of cartoons on towels and stationery produced by Sanrio were also cited as derogatory. "We had no idea that the name Sambo was considered racist in America," said Kazuo Tomatsu of Sanrio.

Young black men have become popular among the more licentious of Japan's women. In Roppongi, Tokyo's nightclub district, a black boyfriend is considered the ultimate accessory.

One Ghanaian resident said: "The Japanese are prejudiced because of ignorance rather than ill-feeling. They think that because I am from Africa, I must be a hungry man. Some people vacate their seats in the subway when I sit down."

Japan may have to be more careful in its treatment of some foreigners, as it is suffering from a severe labour shortage. There are an estimated 35 per cent more jobs available than job seekers. The International Labour Organisation predicts Japan will face a shortage of 2.7 million workers by 2000. Yet Japan has the lowest proportion of legal foreign nationals in its workforce.

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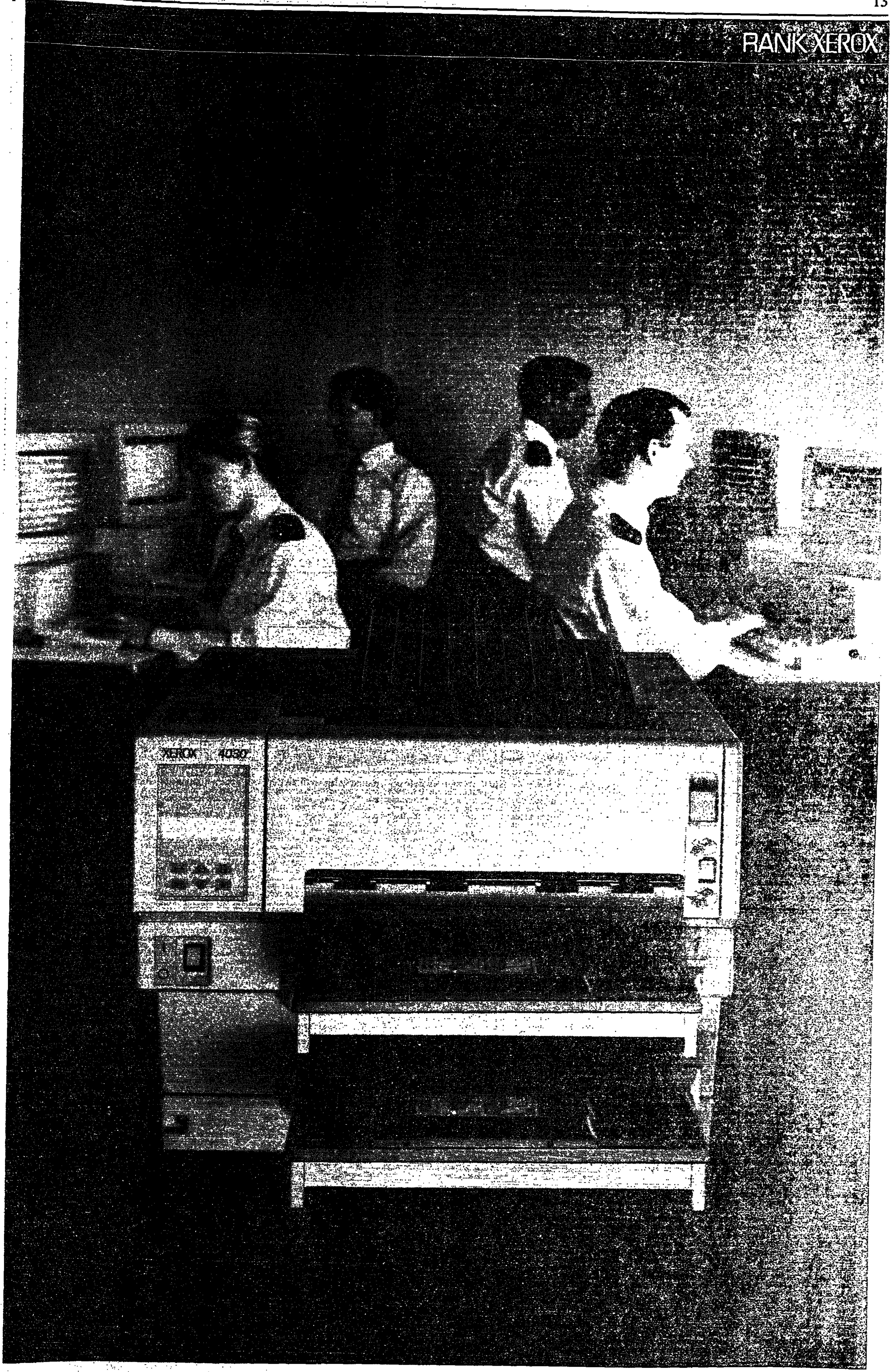
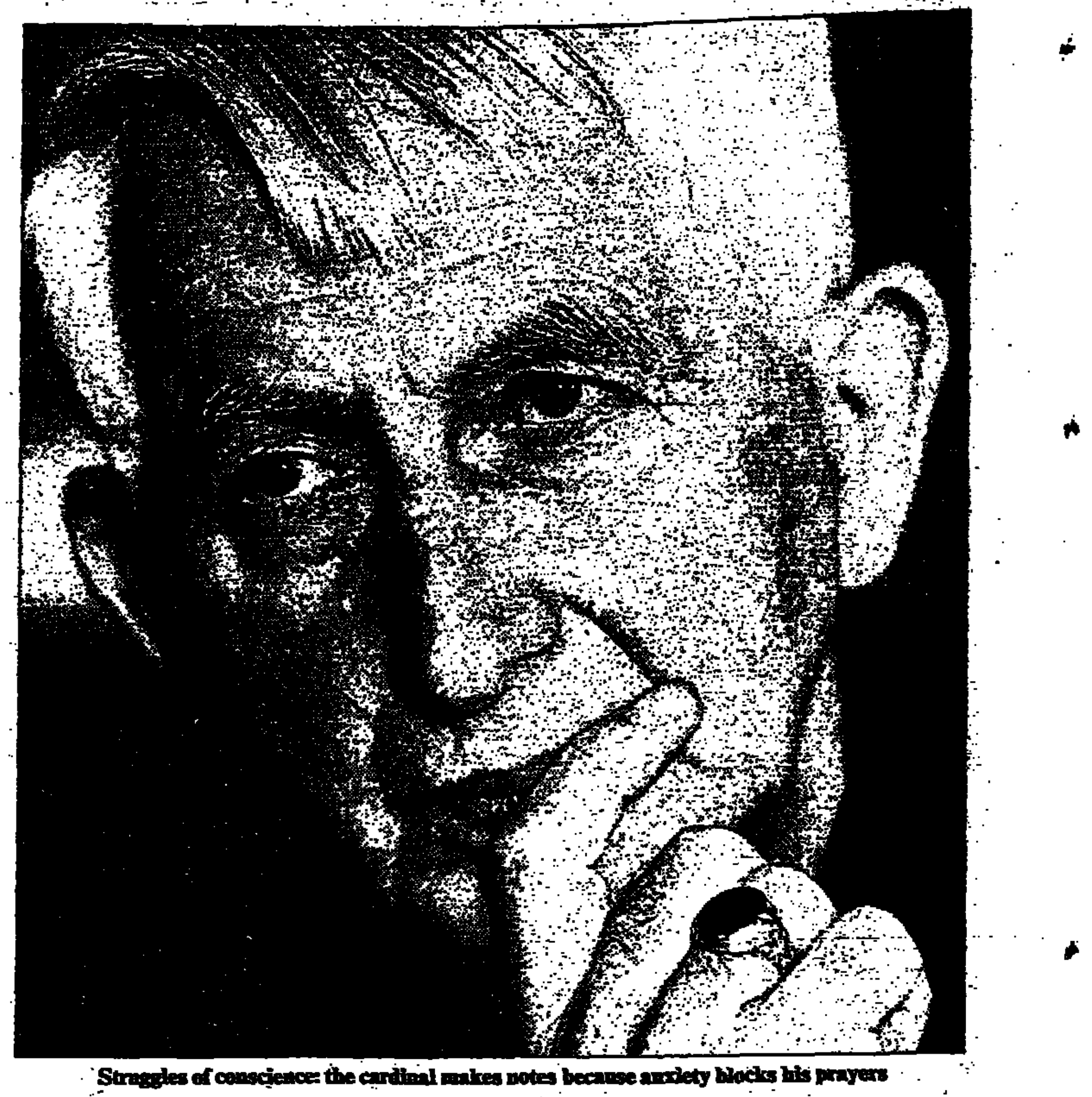


An anguished Catholic treads a careful line

Clifford Longley talks to Cardinal Basil Hume about his personal and public attitudes to a 'just war'



Struggles of conscience: the cardinal makes notes because anxiety blocks his prayers

War plays havoc with consciences, perhaps most of all with the consciences of church leaders. Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, briefly enjoying in the absence of an Archbishop of Canterbury an unchallenged spell as Britain's senior churchman, finds it more anguishing than most.

By temperament and feeling he is almost a pacifist, he told *The Times* in an interview yesterday. "If I could walk along the Embankment with my banner, I would be a free man — marvellous!" he said. "But I have to take my responsibilities as a bishop seriously." And as such he has concluded that there is justice on the side of the allied coalition in the Gulf, and that the Catholic tradition — which it is his duty to speak to — does allow war, as a last resort, to redress such injustices as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Taking his job seriously, in his case, means very seriously indeed. He has acquired and pondered a copy of the Amnesty International report on Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait. He knows the exact date of the gassing of 5,000 Kurds by Saddam Hussein: March 16, 1988. "Those things go terribly deep," he remarked. He has been engrossed in the documents that set forth the traditional Catholic teaching on war. He has given careful interviews to television, preached careful sermons, written careful articles for newspapers.

Above all he prays about the war every day. The cardinal spoke for the first time about the daily wrestling on his knees in his private chapel with the morality of warfare — deeply reluctantly, as "I don't like coming across as holy or clever". On the night the allied bombing campaign started, he was woken at 1am by a telephone call. "I remember I felt all that dread which I had felt in 1939. I relived the whole of that, which was the end of an era; I remember as a boy of 16 listening to the war about to be declared. And I felt that deep depression. I went through all that again at one in the morning. It was quite uncanny."

In his chapel that night he felt desolation. "One felt just that situation of Our Lord on the Cross — that this is awful." He could not form his thoughts for prayer then, and has found it a struggle since. He has taken to making notes before praying, for the first time in many years, because he found anxiety was blocking his prayers. The cardinal, with considerable diffidence, decided to allow a glimpse of these notes.

"I am keeping these just for my own sake," he said, reading from lined foolscap pages with red handwriting. "February 16. Guide me, Lord, to know what is right. The cost is too great . . . [I had to write that] . . . Lord and master, guide us and help . . . [I should not be doing all this, should I?] . . . Then on February 15: come to me all you who are burdened and I will refresh you . . . I pray for this war, the agony, what is right, what is wrong . . . the wounding and the bereavement, the Iraqi at home . . . what can I do? I can just be silent with those who are suffering and give them love. My presence speaks of my love."

These were some of his most private prayers of the past few weeks. They were read in a whisper with long pauses, with occasional glances at the tape recorder as if in the hope that it had stopped. "Sometimes the answer to prayer is, in my experience, mostly delayed action, a sudden clarifying of a situation. Or I suddenly see now what is right, or it may be that you have taken an action which you only realise afterwards was really the right one." He did not sit in his chapel afterwards expecting to hear an answer. "But I like to think the Lord has stopped me making a complete ass of myself."

Cardinal Hume, for all his eminence a practically minded Benedictine monk at heart, prefers to personalise issues. Discussing the moral dilemma of Catholic servicemen in the Gulf, he mentions senior officers he knows, one of them a brigadier, "a marvellous Catholic". He recalls the yes or no answer demanded of him by a Catholic mother of two, whose husband was in the Gulf. The man was "not sinning" by the performance of his military duty, he told her. He had been greatly impressed when he and Dr Robert Runcie had, at their request, seen John Major. The Holy Spirit's guidance was not confined to those in the Catholic church, he said, and he saw no reason why Mr Major, who impressed him "enormously", should not be so guided in his conduct of the war.

Cardinal Hume has been summoned to Rome by Pope John Paul II at the start of next month along with other senior Catholic churchmen. It is for an exchange of views, but had it not been for the Pope's most recent statement, the scene might have been set for a stern papal rebuke to Western church leaders who have condoned the allied war effort. The Pope has been receiving glowing opinions in the Arab world for his outspoken condemnation of the allied bombing campaign.

On Sunday the Pope had complained at the abuse of his previous remarks on the war, and declared: "We are not pacifists. We do not want peace at any price, but peace with justice, which takes into account the rights of all the people concerned." His spokesman said that in those rights the Pope meant the rights of sovereign Kuwait as well as of Iraqis, Palestinians and "all the people of the Middle East".

Cardinal Hume said that in view of this he felt there was no longer a gap between himself and the Pope, but he was evidently concerned enough by the perceived difference between them to request a full transcription of Sunday's address. Ultimately, he was sure a substantial difference between them was unlikely, as both were bound by the text of the Second Vatican Council decree *Gaudium et Spes*, which legitimises war in defined circumstances while declaring "Divine Providence urgently commands us to rid ourselves of the ancient slavery of war".

"I am clear that as a bishop I have to teach on the basis of a corpus of teaching which is official within the church. That is probably a point many people don't understand, because *that* means to say *it* is not always the case that my personal opinions, and what I believe the church is saying, need necessarily coincide. But as a bishop I have to teach from a corpus of teaching . . . I have to be very aware of the consequences of what a bishop says." He dislikes the terminology of "just war", saying: "When people hear those phrases — 'the cardinal believes in a just war' — they take notice of all the jingoistic things." He preferred to keep the traditional just-war theory as the criterion for deciding when a war was certainly immoral. All he meant if he used it was that the Gulf war was not "certainly immoral".

"Who am I to say that what *Gaudium et Spes* says was wrong? I may not like it, but I cannot say that. In an ideal world there should never be war. The vision of a civilisation where all conflicts are resolved without war — of course that is the ideal." The decree spoke of the "barbarism" of war, and the use of certain weapons as leading to "horror and wickedness". "All those things — that is what the Pope has been saying," the cardinal added.

His favourite text from that decree is the passage: "Peace is not the absence of war. It cannot be reduced to mere balance of power. It does not come from tyrannical domination. It is rightly and properly called the work of justice."

"Now, that is how the Pope has now completed his own interventions. *Recently he has said that. In* other words he had said everything in *Gaudium at Spes*, until recently, except that bit. Now he has completed his doctrine." And the Pope was addressing both sides in the conflict: "It would have been wrong of him to take sides." Until he said that, however, "people could have put him on one side and me on the other side."

Bernard Levin on the ever more alarming portents for Chinese rule of Hong Kong

Smile on the face of the dragon

The most recent Chinese show-trials have followed the pattern of the earlier ones, except that the sentences have been heavier, as befits the demands that the victims should not only admit guilt but incriminate others, equally innocent, and even offer praise for the bestial form of justice that is practised in China. Let no one who lives in freedom look down upon the victim whose script obliged him to recite thanks to his captors "who have redeemed me with education and for the care they gave me".

As for the two heroes who received sentences of 13 years for their refusal to confess, let their names at least be given again: they were Wang Juntao (who *has* rebuked those who recanted, though he, surely, has a right to) and Chen Ziming. These two have fought for democracy since the end of the Cultural Revolution; so has another name on the roll of honour, Ren Wanding, sentenced to seven years; he had earlier defended the pitiful courage of those who made the "Democracy Wall" and got four years for the presumption.

The Chinese rulers had the greatest fright of their lives in Tiananmen Square. If more such trials are thought to be required, they will be organised, to ensure that the Chinese people do not forget what happens to those who frighten their leaders.

And this is the regime to which a British government intends to hand over Hong Kong, six years from now, with no assurances as to the rights and freedoms of millions of people for whom Britain was and is responsible.

No assurances? None; the entire structure of the Joint Declaration was a conjuring trick. What was *said* was that the Chinese leaders had promised to leave Hong Kong its curious freedom-in-limbo status for 50 years. What our government hoped — in vain, happily — that we would not notice, was that there was no possibility of enforcing that promise. Of all the dishonesties of our Foreign Office over the years, and you must admit that there are plenty to choose from, the one that stinks worst in my nostrils is the defence it put about when people began to notice the discrepancy between a worthless totalitarian signature and the safety of millions of human beings. It was that the Chinese would honour their pledge because Hong Kong would be more valuable to them free than unfree.

They went on saying that, in one form or another, until the events in Tiananmen Square, when even they could not go on repeating the mantra. Mark, though, that they did not fall back on the truth; they simply shut up and waited for better times — a time when enough people had forgotten not only the massacre but the subsequent hunting down and killing of those who escaped the original vengeance.

Even before the massacre and what followed, there had been ominous pressure from the Chinese; the series of promised direct elections for Hong Kong was in danger, and demonstrations against Chinese rule were becoming difficult. But now it is much worse, and not only because the Chinese have inserted the "anti-subversion" clause in the Basic Law. Now we must agree, for instance, that not more than 20 of the members of the Hong Kong legislature (a total of 60) may be directly elected by 1997, while the harassment of anti-Chinese and anti-Communist movements has become worse, as has censorship of films which might offend the Chinese. Even the celebrations planned for January 20, the 150th anniversary of British sovereignty over Hong Kong, were cancelled.

Still, the events were taking place in "a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing", and our government was sniffing the wind, wondering whether memories of Tiananmen Square had faded sufficiently for the plight of Hong Kong to fade with it. If so, it would make little difference if the frightful Levin was still going on about it, and anyway even he couldn't go on for ever. And then things went disastrously wrong.

It began with the airport business. Hong Kong has long needed a new one, together with extra port facilities and a bridge, and this immense project was being planned — it will take years to build — when the Chinese authorities stepped in. They agreed that such an expansion was necessary, but they would not have British government and British enterprise embarking on it without asking China's permission. Anyone who has read the handover pact will know that until 1997 Hong Kong's status is supposed to remain exactly as it is; there is nothing in the agreement that would give China any right to interfere with such a construction. But when China catches cold, Britain sneezes; the airport requires China's *nihil obstat*, and the plan must wait until it is given.

But that was only the preamble. Deng Xiaoping, the Dictator Emeritus of China, has now admitted the truth about his signature on the Joint Declaration; it is, as has been obvious from the start, worthless. He promised that when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty there will be no nonsense about democracy; those who advocate it will be removed from government. And he left no room for the Foreign Office's Department of Alternative Readings when he said: "The opposition party which organised the alliance in support of democracy has to be kicked out of the political establishment." If they thought otherwise, he added, they were victims of an "unrealistic illusion".

Nor was that all; he insists that China has a right to be involved in all major policy decisions affecting Hong Kong *before* 1997. And he said plainly that if there were a "rebellion" in Hong Kong *after* the transfer, he would send in his army to crush it. (He did not define "rebellion"; but to label any dissent with that name and use the result as a pretext for sending in the troops is one of the oldest of totalitarian devices.)

None of this, I must stress, has changed the plight of Hong Kong; it was always true that there would be no democracy there after 1997, that until then Britain's representatives must kowtow to China so often that they will all end up with chronic back-pain, that Britain had a responsibility for its unique colony upon which it simply defaulted. The only difference is that the British government, and in particular the Foreign Office, can now no longer go on denying any of it. So what do they now say instead?

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

It was a close-run thing: last October it looked all over bar the shouting for window cleaners; there followed a Christmas campaign by airlines from the Orient boosting the claims of flight controllers, with strong cases being made for both dental hygienists and astrologers. To my delight, at last weekend's Luxembourg meeting, 1993 was officially designated International Be Nice To Waiters Year.

On Saturday I take a Pan Am jumbo to Los Angeles to attend the convocation of the agenda committee, where I am sitting for England. We have a serious chance of beating Belgium and the Seychelles in the election for chair, which means that much of what goes on could be organised our way. It was consideration of the change of status in the waiters' lot that swung the vote, rather as filling-station attendants came through in 1971 after the introduction of self-service in garage forecourts.

Only 10 years ago the restaurant waiter was king. There was no stage during the service of a meal in which he was not in total control of the customers' destiny. Goodness, the chef cooked, but the chef's contribution ended when the silver platter of food left the kitchen hotplate; it was the waiter who brought it to the restaurant, rearranged the layout, tasted the sauce, baked the plate and recooked the food on his burner; the waiter who carved the best end of lamb and filleted the sole; the waiter who decided that the meat should have a chance to settle before he came by with the vegetables.

Nouvelle cuisine, with its philosophy of kitchen-assembled, handsomely arranged, artistically garnished plates of food covered by shiny silver cloches, ended the waiter's hegemony, restricted his constructive input to bursting forth with a peppermill and drenching quenelles before you have time to stop him. Nor has the modern design of restaurants been helpful to the waiters' cause: under the old order there were tables abutting the swing doors to the kitchen, tables adjacent to the lavatories and by the receiving end of air-conditioning vents, where customers who had been less than enthusiastic distributors of largesse on previous visits could be seated to consider the error of their ways. No more.

And there used to be wine lists without bin numbers, obliging customers to pronounce Ducru Beaucaillou, enabling waiters to correct the pronunciation . . . which was worth a bit also. Restaurant-client reaction to being made to feel small is "I'll show him I'm not the moron he thinks I am when I leave my extra large tip".

What our committee will have to do is find ways of improving public appreciation of a profession left with not much more than French accents and stained dinner jackets. The waiter's original role, now sterilised by circumstance, castrated by progress, blunted by the average diner's desire to have someone produce a smile followed by a plate, will have to be rethought. In the old days each branch of the restaurant industry had an aim — and the waiter's aim was a shattered guest. They can't achieve that any more, and to be fair many of them have lost the appetite.

The Be Nice To Waiters Year will involve persuading people to accept that some of the very best restaurant staff are employed to transport food from kitchen to dining room and that this can be done with efficiency, dignity, humour and understanding; that the epitaph on the old *maître d'hotel's* tombstone, "God finally caught his eye", no longer applies; that the old order of serving food from the left and wine from the right is daft — unless there is room on those sides at the time waiters need to serve these things; that serving women before men, when it involves an extra walk for them and an extra wait for us, is a waste of time, and there is no merit in reciting a menu when it can be written down so that it can be considered.

We will hope to sponsor a television programme called *Master Waiter*, in which skilled serving staff are let loose on difficult diners, the winner to be the one who best anticipates the next move and deals with it. I believe this will have greater immediacy than *One Man and His Dog* and be better viewing than *Come Dancing*. We have, as Her Majesty puts it when she opens Parliament, further plans for the year in question.

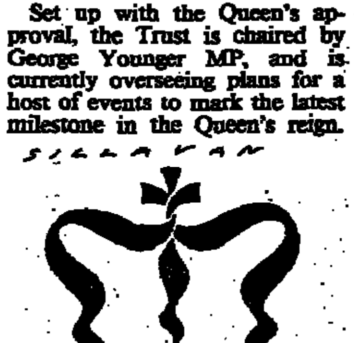
THE TIMES DIARY

Designer jubilation

In advance of the multifarious public salutes, bonfires and street parties to celebrate her ruby jubilee next year the Queen has approved a commemorative royal logo for the occasion. The motif is a crown fashioned out of ribbons above the message, *Her Majesty the Queen's 40th Jubilee.* It will be reproduced on everything from mugs to municipal flowerbeds.

Designed by the London firm Sampson Tyrrell, the symbol was commissioned by the Royal Anniversary Trust, which is organising nationwide celebrations from February to October. "We asked Sampson Tyrrell to create a symbol and words to unify the various activities throughout the year," says Robin Gill, chief executive of the Trust.

Set up with the Queen's approval, the Trust is chaired by George Younger MP, and is currently overseeing plans for a host of events to mark the latest milestone in the Queen's reign.



The celebrations include an awards scheme for schools and plans for exhibitions of 40 glorious years, all of which will sport the logo, approved by the Queen a month ago while she was staying at Balmoral.

The ribbons reflect the celebratory nature of events, says designer David Freeman, while the twisted strands at the summit of the crown, reminiscent of the top of a maypole, symbolise the nation moving together. Unusually, the designers have departed from the traditional red, white and blue of the national flag and have incorporated canary yellow and grey ribbons.

Eight designers have been working on the logo for four months. "We looked at lots of designs, including rather a lot of trumpets, before we gradually refined the work on the crown."

Change of set

Once a favourite haunt of the Bloomsbury group, Garsington Manor in Oxfordshire is now making its name as an opera centre. This summer will see performances before 300 guests of Haydn's *Il mondo della luna* by the Covent Garden Festival Orchestra and Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by Opera 80.

"Those attending are welcome to arrive from 5pm onwards to picnic in the garden," says Rosalind Ingrams, mistress of the house and the inspiration behind Garsington's operatic reincarnation. "We started putting on operas two years ago, but this year we have formed a company called Garsington Opera."

Backed by John Mortimer and Sir Patrick Neill, warden of All Souls College, the company has charitable status and will give the proceeds to the Oxford Playhouse and the Bodleian. As for the inevitable comparison with that other rural home of opera, Mrs Ingrams is firm: "We hope that we never become like Glyndebourne," she says. "We want to remain small and rare."

● *John Major's self-effacement is not newly acquired. At a recent dinner for senior Conservatives, he recalled how, in 1978, he narrowly beat Chris Patten to win the Tory nomination for the safe seat of Huntingdon. After the result was announced, Major asked the local party chairman why he had been preferred. "Oh, Patten's so good he will win a seat anywhere," was the reply. "From that day on," said Major, "I knew where I stood in the constituency."*

Hippo hooray

The tide of change in Eastern Europe has not unduly bothered the two hippopotamuses of Budapest zoo. They continue to astonish experts with their fecundity, producing offspring in each of the past three years, a remarkable rate for the species in captivity, says the zoo. Their high reproductivity has been attributed to the water diverted into their pool from the nearby Szechenyi Baths, reputed to be the best spa in Hungary. A proud spokesman says: "The warm, medicinal waters are proving a marvellous tonic for humans and hippos alike."

Building bridges

With high interest rates sowing unusual dissension in the Tory heartlands, one MP has gone to extreme lengths to placate a constituent. Badgered on the phone by an angry local builder bemoaning his company's worst trading conditions for 70 years, James Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, made the ultimate gesture. He stemmed the flow of invective by hiring the builder to convert a stable block into a cottage.

"I've not heard a grumble from him since," says Pawsey. But with many other builders experiencing similar problems, will the MP provide the same service every time he receives an angry telephone call? "I'm afraid there has to be a limit to what I can do for my constituents," he says.

In from the cold

John Le Carré's recollection of his schooldays at Sherborne as "one long act of sadism" has prompted the current headmaster to invite him back to Dorset to see how things have improved. Le Carré, whose latest book *The Russia House* has just been made into a film, was sent to the school in 1944 at the age of 13 and describes the period as the unhappiest in his life. "Most of the time I cried alone," he says. "I still hate the public school system. I would like to see it abolished."

But Peter Lapping, the head of the school, believes a return visit would change Le Carré's mind. "Sherborne has changed enormously and I would like to think we have very few unhappy boys here. There is no corporal punishment," he says.

● *Baroness James of Holland Park, newly ensconced in the House of Lords, has been quick to reassure peers that they will not feature in any future P.D. James novels about murder in the vicinity of the woolsack. "The Lords would be a wonderful setting for a crime novel," she says. "But you can set such a story anywhere. I'm not planning such a book. At the moment I'm more interested in preparing my maiden speech on the subjects that interest me: language, literature and criminal justice."*

هكذا من الاعلى

HALF A PEACE PLAN

The Soviet Union has thrown President Saddam Hussein a lifeline to help him withdraw from Kuwait. Even if Saddam were to grasp it, however, the Russians could not haul him back by themselves. The leading members of the international alliance, notably the USA, Saudi Arabia and Britain, would have to endorse it. This they are reluctant to do.

They have scrupulously observed President Gorbachev's request not to disclose the Moscow plan's contents and have thus been handicapped in explaining their objections. But enough is now known for preliminary judgment: the offer is related to United Nations resolutions but is wholly inadequate to bring about a settlement in the Gulf.

The plan is understood to have several stages. The first would be a firm commitment by Saddam to withdraw from the whole of Kuwait, promptly followed by the first withdrawals. The allies have already said they would not attack troops in retreat, as they have said they have no subsequent aggressive designs on Iraq or its leadership. Such an order to his troops from Saddam would be followed by a ceasefire to complete the withdrawal. So far, so good in theory.

In the second phase, there would be exchanges of prisoners-of-war, and implementation of the other 11 UN security council resolutions. Soviet sources suggest there are incentives for Saddam: pledges of Iraq's territorial integrity, Soviet sponsorship of negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and gradual replacement of Western forces in the Gulf by Arab or UN peacekeeping contingents.

Here difficulties arise, reflecting back on the plausibility of phase one. The obvious drawback is the phasing itself. Saddam must be regarded as totally unreliable in matters of treaties and diplomacy. He will keep a bargain only under force majeure. The allies are insisting that he accept from the start not only UN resolution 660 but all other UN resolutions. This includes 662, which invalidated Saddam's annexation of Kuwait, and 674, which renders Iraq liable to compensate Kuwait and other countries damaged by its aggression. Saddam is believed to be reluctant to accept these.

Furthermore, two years after the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam was still holding Iranian PoWs as hostages. In this war, he has refused Red Cross access to Western PoWs, which he has used as human shields in military installations. He has refused even to admit that some 2,000 captured Kuwaiti soldiers are PoWs at all: many are probably now dead. The handover of prisoners must be an immediate concomitant of withdrawal.

A more basic objection is not the content of Moscow's implied conditionality, but the fact of bargaining at all. Withdrawal is supposed to be unconditional and immediate. Nothing could be clearer than that. So why is Tariq Aziz flying back and forth and promising statements hours then days later? The evidence is overwhelming that Saddam is simply playing for time, seeking to split the allies, embarrassing everybody available to be embarrassed. As the Russians said yesterday, all he had to do was call the Soviet embassy and say yes.

Without relaxing the military pressure, President Bush must now urgently persuade his allies that the Russian plan is unacceptable and offers no reason for delaying the land war, now believed to be imminent.

Hitherto, there has been good cause for delay. Air bombardment has reduced Iraqi resistance. The Soviet plan, by creating turmoil in Iraq, just might have saved allied lives by achieving a settlement or at least by further eroding Iraqi military morale. Even now, the Americans could afford a brief further delay if it is needed to cement the allies behind James Baker's "no negotiations, no confusion" call of yesterday.

Both for the lives of his and the allied soldiers and for the cause of his diplomacy, President Bush has every incentive to go the extra inch for peace. The Soviet plan was not quite that extra inch, and its always tenuous credibility depended on Saddam Hussein's prompt acceptance. There could be no clearer indication of his reckless cynicism.

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation's rumbustious president, had the nerve to use a rare broadcast to the entire Soviet Union on Tuesday evening to demand the resignation of the man who had graciously permitted him airtime: Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr Yeltsin has never lacked guts. Radio Russia, the voice of Mr Yeltsin's nationalist government, has been prevented from attacking the Soviet regime. But the duel between the two remarkable Russians continues. Would Mr Yeltsin make a good replacement for Mr Gorbachev? Or is he, as his enemies claim, a vodka-drinking chauvinist of no fixed political abode, who is fomenting civil war?

The overseas diplomatic establishment has taken the view that Mr Gorbachev remains the best bet, if not for progress in the Soviet Union, at least for staving off chaos. He is the known devil. He has a track record of pragmatism in foreign affairs. Mr Yeltsin, according to this view, may be popular but is a narrow Russian nationalist. He may have distanced himself from the extremist Pamyat movement, but he remains a shadowy figure, with the potential to unleash anarchy.

Yet the Yeltsin approach to the conflicts of the Soviet Union has been more sensitive than Mr Gorbachev's, and has brought a number of the republics to agree on a treaty. Mr Yeltsin's idea of transferring power from the Soviet presidency to the inter-republican Federation Council is equally plausible, if only as a halfway stage to a new confederal constitution. With Mr Gorbachev peddling backwards, Mr Yeltsin's progressive ideas are hardly treasonable.

The reason why the West must trust Mr Yeltsin and the Soviet opposition has little to do with the ethics of interfering in Soviet domestic affairs. It is fast becoming the same question as arose in Eastern Europe, of backing the right argument. Mr Gorbachev has no significant popular constituency; he has only the army, the bureaucracy and the KGB to rely on. Mr Yeltsin lacks formal power, which partly explains his recent loss of popular support: many Russians expected him to remedy their grievances. But he still has votes in his pocket.

Mr Gorbachev's conduct of the Soviet economy since 1988 has been deplorable, even by comparison with the Brezhnev era. Hyper-inflation is now a domestic reality, not a foreign conspiracy. Private ownership of land, that *sine qua non* of all post-feudal economics, still faces an implacable opponent in the Soviet president. Mr Yeltsin may have feeble and even sinister characters in his entourage, but he is at least trying to loosen the limbs of the colossus and move it in the right direction.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR yesterday voted by a large majority to condemn Mr Yeltsin's comments on Tuesday as tending to the "liquidation" of the Soviet constitution and to civil war. The fact that well-founded criticism still meets with such hostility from this largely undemocratic body is not surprising, but it is ominous. The next phase of political conflict in Moscow may be less restrained than the last. Mr Yeltsin has been under severe attack from official organs over recent weeks.

Doubts about Mr Yeltsin, who in a few years transformed his allegiance to the party machine into outright opposition to the *ancien régime*, are legitimate. Yet he has said nothing to justify putting him in political quarantine. As the Soviet President seeks to gain himself a new lease of life by means of his Gulf peace plan, Boris Yeltsin ought not to be abandoned. He is, however fleetingly, the political conscience of Russia.

TAXING GAS GUZZLERS

Suppose there were a tax reform that would improve the environment, save energy, reduce public expenditure and make tax fairer between the better and the worse off. Suppose that reform could be made without adding to inflation. Suppose, moreover, it was supported overwhelmingly by the public in the polls. Would not the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduce it at once? Maybe. Norman Lamont is reported to be flirting with such a proposal for next month's budget. He is contemplating the abolition of the £100 annual vehicle excise duty (VED) on cars. The lost revenue would be made up through a supplement of 50p per gallon or so to fuel tax.

In the history of public policy, so overwhelming a case for change is rare. It would transform the spread of motoring costs. People would pay to the extent they use their car, a decision which involves heavy communal costs. The little old lady, doing a few miles a year, would pay less than she does now. The commuter in the traffic jam, pouring fumes into the lungs of his fellow citizens, the businessman pounding the motorway on "office petrol", would pay more.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the change in motor taxation from average to marginal cost would cut car use by 8 per cent in one year. That would mean roughly 8 per cent less fuel burned; 8 per cent less environmental damage done; and 8 per cent less crowding on the roads.

In the longer term, the saving would be more dramatic. Fuel-efficient cars would be at a premium over the gas-guzzlers. Efficient runabouts would gradually replace them. The cost of living would not be affected because the increase in petrol prices would be counter-balanced by the saving on VED. Justice would be done, because (again according to the IFS) petrol tax bears least heavily on the poorest members of the community. And the public would be pleased. VED is a most unpopular tax, because those who pay it resent others evading it. Seven in ten of those questioned, according to Gallup, favour scrapping it in favour of higher petrol tax.

The case for change has been overwhelming for 20 years, since oil prices first took off. Five chancellors have, at one time or another, been poised to do the deed: VED has been frozen at £100 since 1985. They have wilted in the face of the twin pillars of fiscal conservatism: fear of the losers and funk in the face of vested interests. Those who lose from the change will assuredly moan. Those who gain will silently pocket their profit.

Tories in marginal rural seats worry that their constituents, deprived of a decent public transport system, would lose. Liberal devotees of community politics stand ready to exploit their grievances. Whitehall trembles before the British car industry which, having no confidence in its ability to make money out of small cars, prefers a fiscal regime which encourages people to buy big. But the Gulf war has underlined the dangers of over-dependence on oil. Mr Lamont should bravely venture where none before has dared to tread.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Wider perspective on peace and war

From Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP for Lewisham, Deptford (Labour)

Sir, Your leader, "Too sharp with Short" (February 16), argues for tolerance by Labour's leadership in the face of public comment about the Gulf war by people like Clare Short and myself.

Many would agree that while the normal roles of front-bench portfolios properly prohibited MPs from speaking on other topics, war creates exceptional circumstances. But, contrary to the sentiments expressed in your leader, no such understanding has come from the media.

Whenever I have been contacted and expressed any view whatsoever, I have immediately been asked if I was criticising the Labour leadership and if the Labour party was about to split. The fact that I had something relevant to say about the conduct of the war by the British government was entirely secondary.

Sadly, the treatment of politicians and their opinions by the media is itself a severely limiting factor on the practice of open politics.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN RUDDOCK,
House of Commons.
February 18.

From the Right Reverend J. V. Taylor

Sir, I have read with great relief the letter from Mr Frank Blackaby and others (February 19) because it opens up the wider context of space and time in which the present war in the Gulf needs to be perceived. For, in order to warrant the massive resort to arms against Iraq, world opinion has been persuaded to look no further than Saddam Hussein's brutal invasion of Kuwait six months ago.

In the short term that may have sufficed as just cause, but in truth it is only a detail in a much larger canvas. To pretend that the real issues are confined to one small sector in the Middle East or to a few recent years is like the conjuror's old trick of fastening the attention of his audience upon a top hat so that they overlook what has been going on elsewhere on the stage.

To restore the former status quo of the Middle East is not a war aim worth fighting for, since that status quo has proved itself to be a perfect recipe for unresolved conflict and recurrent acts of war. Nor will the removal of Saddam Hussein solve anything.

The one outcome that can ever make tolerable the sacrifice of human lives in the Gulf today must be a new deal for the Middle East as a whole. Why, then, are President Bush and our own Prime Minister so obstinate in refusing to give countenance to the only objective that will, even in retrospect, make this war appear to have been just?

Successive foreign secretaries have in the past allowed themselves to admit publicly that the Israeli-Palestinian question must be brought to some peace conference, but have subsequently fallen silent on the subject. It is a necessity which the West should have been insisting upon long before Saddam invaded Kuwait, and which will be virtually unavoidable when the war ends. The dread of "linkage" is a face-saving absurdity. Being dilatory is not the worst fault we may have to admit.

The difficulties of negotiating a lasting mutual security in the Middle East are mind-boggling. Mistrust and resentment have gone so deep that anyone who thinks he already has a blueprint for the future must be a fool.

The idea of a solution imposed by powers outside the arena is too laden with past partisanship and self-interest to be trusted. Israel is too strong vis-à-vis any one Arab country on its own for bilateral settlements to become generally endorsed and too isolated to commit herself to negotiate with all the Arab states together.

Yet, even so, the surprising fidelity with which the members of the coalition against Iraq are holding together may be the first fragile evidence of a changed mood of desperation, if not yet of trust. Hope is not quite absurd, and where there is hope there must be a united will to see it realised.

Yours faithfully,
†JOHN V. TAYLOR,
65 Aston Street, Oxford.
February 19.

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative)

Sir, There appears to be a growing danger that pressure on the coalition from non-combatant countries, such as the Soviet Union, could result in a "*half-finished*" job in the Gulf.

The only way that a lasting peace in the area will be achieved is if Saddam Hussein's military machine is totally destroyed. A simple withdrawal of the Iraqi army out of Kuwait into Iraq would leave Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf states under permanent threat of renewed invasion.

Saddam Hussein and his henchmen must be removed from power and put on trial by an international tribunal for their atrocities and war crimes, against their own people, the Kurds, the Kuwaitis and, not least, our own British and US prisoners of war.

There will be a need for a temporary occupying force from the coalition countries until Iraq can return to a responsible democratic government. Then the coalition governments would need to secure guarantees that Iraq would never again become a *military* superpower.

Any solution less than this would mean that the sacrifices made by the Allies would have been in vain.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRYLLS,
House of Commons.
February 19.

Gas masks in Israel

From Mr Burt Keimach

Sir, Mr Machover and Ms Thornhill (February 6) must surely be aware that there are over 400,000 Israelis, mainly children and people suffering from asthma, who have not yet received gas masks.

Recently specific civil defence measures have been taken in Judea, Samaria [the West Bank] and the Gaza district for the 1.7 million non-citizen residents there. For example, six hospitals have already been prepared and equipped for dealing with casualties from chemical and biological agents and all the medical staff in the hospitals have been given gas masks, along with instructions in Arabic on how to deal with casualties. Eighty ambulance drivers have been issued with special protective kits, and given explicit instructions as to their use.

Instructions for self-defence are continually being broadcast on Israeli television and radio in several languages, including Arabic. It is interesting that as early as the beginning of January 1991 many Jordanians complained that their government was *not* instructing them on how to defend themselves against chemical weapons and were therefore watching Israeli television to learn what to do.

Any insinuation that Israel uses detainees and prisoners as "human shields" is outrageous and baseless.

Yours sincerely,
BURT KEIMACH
(Deputy director),
Britain/Israel Public Affairs Centre,
21-22 Great Sutton Street, EC1.
February 20.

Burdens of the law

From the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar

Sir, The rule that barristers cannot refuse work because it is legally aided goes back to the beginning of legal aid in 1949 and is not of recent origin as Mr Robert Winstanley, a solicitor, suggested in his article "Just cause without a monopoly" (Law, February 12).

As Mr Winstanley believes that the rule has no real meaning, no doubt he will have no difficulty in recommending to his colleagues that his side of the profession should take on this duty. As Lord Mishcon, also a solicitor, pointed out in the House of Lords, those who have the privileges of rights of audience must accept the burdens that go with it.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY SCRIVENER,
Chairman,
The General Council of the Bar,
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
February 14.

Funds for films

From the Minister of State for Trade and Industry

Sir, Contrary to your report (February 19) I can assure your readers that the government will stand by its commitment to provide £5 million over the next three years to help British film producers seeking to enter European co-productions.

British Screen Finance Ltd have agreed to manage the fund, which will be known as the European Co-Production fund, and we are currently consulting the industry about the detailed operation. We intend that the fund will start operating in April, as planned.

The government and the industry are still considering the other issues which came out of last year's Downing Street seminar on film production (report, June 16, 1990).

Yours faithfully,
HESKETH,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1-19 Victoria Street, SW1.
February 20.

Erasing the tone

From Dr Roger B. Williams

Sir, In his review of Sir William Glock's forthcoming autobiography, Richard Morrison (Arts page, February 13) appears to have capitulated to a degree of unfortunate partisanship.

Members of my generation — 40 plus — have good reason to be heartily grateful for the vision and courage shown by the former comptroller of music at the BBC. Had Glock not promoted the best of European music, both new and old, with such zeal, British music could well have remained as comfortably retrospective as might have appeared fitting to an insular race. However, the oft-quoted tag, *Das Land ohne Musik* is certainly untrue now.

Your critic also describes the BBC's current musical policy as "unobjectionably pluralist". This may be largely true; but there has been a notable decline in certain areas of repertoire.

Where, for example, are the broadcasts of the new Boulez or Stockhausen — men at the height of their creative originality during Glock's regime? Where are the broadcasts of the new, the radical and the challenging from the pupils of these giant figures?

In the listed music broadcasts of the current *Radio Times* only one programme, of about 45 minutes on Thursday evening, presents music by a composer under the age of 45, out of approximately 100 hours of airtime devoted to music. If this is "unobjectionably pluralist", may I suggest that there is scope for a contrary view?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER B. WILLIAMS,
Music Department,
University of Aberdeen,
Powis Gate,
College Bounds,
Old Aberdeen.
February 13.

UK farming in European context

From Mr Neil W. Taylor

Sir, I sympathise with the plight of British farmers, as described by Michael Hornsby ("Weed out the high-cost farmers", February 12). However, they are not alone. Falling farm incomes are a problem worldwide and New Zealand farmers, too, have had their share of difficulties.

We believe the only way ahead is for farmers to become more actively involved in their whole industry. Farmers everywhere have to increase their farm-gate share of the final market value for their produce if they are to survive. One way, for example, is to retain ownership of their product deeper into the market through, for example, co-operative selling arrangements.

Despite UK farmers receiving subsidies since the UK entered the EC in 1973, they are now worse off. Farm incomes have fallen, stockpiles of surplus production are rising and the cost of support is escalating.

Experience both here and elsewhere demonstrates that it is impossible to manage agricultural markets in the long term. Only the market can determine what the returns shall be. Furthermore, it should be remembered that a subsidy to one group in the Community is a tax on others.

The common agricultural policy has succeeded only in conditioning farmers into accepting a permanent subsidiary role in which they can never expect to pay their own way — an attitude which an increasing majority of consumers now view with concern. But many UK and other EC farmers are efficient and would survive without subsidies in a free-market situation. They have above all one enormous advantage over other producers — a large market right on their doorstep.

The attitudes of European governments towards the CAP have become noticeably more impatient in recent months as its costs escalate beyond the agreed budget, now demanding more than half the total EC budget and preventing investment in other areas of the economy.

There is no doubt that reform is essential. But unless that reform addresses the basic issues realistically, it will only damage the infrastructure of European farming even more than it has to date. Without fundamental reform the future for European agriculture is bleak; but with imaginative new policies this need not be the case.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL W. TAYLOR (Director,
trade policy (Europe)),
New Zealand Meat
Producers Board,
Rue d'Arlon 69/71,
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.
February 15.

From Mr J. L. Kelleway

Sir, Michael Hornsby's analysis and his conclusions are undoubtedly valid, but does he pursue the argument far enough? Where have all the farm-hands gone?

The millions of man-hours of labour required for crop and livestock production have not been lost as if by magic. The work has been transferred away from farms into the supply side of the agricultural industry, a fact appreciated by our continental neighbours.

Throughout Europe massive industries now exist developing, producing, packaging, advertising, selling and distributing a wide range of machinery, herbicides and fixed equipment for feeding and housing livestock. Unfortunately, continental manufacturers now dominate all these sectors.

Is it really conceivable that this position has been achieved on the backs of small, inefficient, continental farmers on 25-hectare farms? Why should they need the £100,000 combine harvesters which can harvest 20 hectares a day, the £50,000 tractors which can plough 25 hectares a day and the like, which they market so successfully here? Could it be that they have been letting their farms to larger neighbours for years?

Possibly there are villages in the rich agricultural areas of France and Germany with several resident farmers occupying farms, but with only one farmer actually working the land. Could they perhaps have reached the same conclusion as Michael Hornsby years ago, resulting in our jobs migrating whilst our workers are left at home?

One fears that our food industry, of which farming is only one component, has missed the boat, whilst public pressure misguidedly seeks the wrong reforms.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. KELLEWAY,
Great Lodge Farm,
Framlingham, Suffolk.

Athletic flare-up

From Mr Stephen Till

Sir, What nonsense David Powell talks ("Suspend the errant athletes", February 19) about the "angry confrontation" between Leroy Burrell and Linford Christie at Cosford on Sunday. It was a passing argument, a flare-up which flared down just as quickly, an incident which has countless equivalents in soccer matches every week that never have the referee so much as fingering his yellow card.

David Powell asserts that Linford will never get to number one at 100 metres, when the evidence of Stuttgart says that Linford can keep up for 50 metres and the experience of the last years tells us he is the strongest in the world over the second 50.

Confrontation is the essence of the sport, and I for one look forward to more of it as winter turns to summer, 60 metres turns to 100, and loser now turns to winner then.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN TILL,
61 Pershore Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
February 19.

Working women

From Mrs J. Byrne-Whyte

Sir, George Bickerstaffe's article, "Ready for the unexpected" (Appointments, February 14), was an interesting look at the way in which the economic recession will affect the prospects for working women. But he is wrong when he attributes to me the description of women's jobs as "low-skilled".

Women's work is far too often part-time and low-paid — but not necessarily low-skilled. Women represent almost half of the workforce but receive far less of the rewards; which is precisely why we at the Equal Opportunities Commission are assisting so many women in claiming equal pay for work of equal value.

The fact that rising unemployment coincides with major skills shortages reinforces our point that employers must urgently reassess the skills of their women workers and provide the necessary retraining if they are to survive the recession.

Yours sincerely,
JUDITH BYRNE-WHYTE
(Assistant Chief Executive),
Equal Opportunities Commission,
Swan House,
52-53 Poland Street, W1.
February 14.

Soviet human rights

From Mr Paul Summerfield

Sir, You stated in your leading article of February 15 that the future of glasnost will be tested by the planned visit in April of a delegation of Christian, Muslim and Jewish representatives to the USSR. You also referred to the Moscow human rights conference next September and stated that the conference should be made hostage to Soviet good behaviour.

In fact glasnost will be tested earlier than April and the conference is already hostage to Soviet good behaviour. At the end of this week the Second Eminent Persons Group, brought together by the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jews (SACSJ), will start a four-day visit to Moscow to assess whether conditions set by Britain before attending the conference have been met.

These conditions are based on the introduction and implementation of legislation guaranteeing fundamental human rights. If the conditions are not met, it is HM Government's policy not to attend the conference.

The group members are Sir Bernard Braine, MP, Baroness Seear, the President of the National Union of Students and Mr Van Veeder, QC. It is hoped that they will find there has been further human rights progress, following the visit of the first Eminent Persons Group, which concluded last February that only one of six conditions had been met.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SUMMERFIELD
(Parliamentary director, SACSJ),
Prospekt Mira 150,
Moscow, USSR.
February 18.

Iron Duke's style

From his Honour Judge Finney

Sir, Whatever the merits of a "cabinetless" prime minister, in fairness to the great Duke of Wellington he did not "take over" as such when William IV dismissed Melbourne in November 1834 (letter, February 12).

That the king wished him to be the next prime minister is undoubted, but having promised Peel not to stand in his way Wellington insisted on stepping in only as caretaker until Peel returned from abroad. He appointed Lyndhurst as Lord Chancellor, which he knew Peel would approve, and took the rest on himself to leave the way clear for his successor.

For the next three weeks the Duke walked (not "dashed") up and down Whitehall, quietly running the country until Peel showed up on December 9. He then gracefully gave up his "dictatorship", as he later called it, staying on under Peel as foreign secretary. All in all, a very honourable performance.

If we were to have a prime minister without a cabinet I can't think of anyone, since then, whom I would trust as much.

Yours faithfully,
JARLATH FINNEY,
1 Essex Court, Temple, EC4.
February 12.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: His Excellency Mr Ji Chaozhu and Mrs Ji were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the People's Republic of China to the Court of St James's.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a reception this evening at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology in 1990.

The Duke of Kent was present.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Duchess of York this morning visited the Aldershot Garrison to meet families of servicemen involved in the Gulf conflict.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness visited Mildmay Mission Hospital, Hackney Road, London, E2.

Mrs John Floyd and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Prince Edward this morning visited Royal Air Force Uxbridge to meet the families of personnel serving in the Gulf.

His Royal Highness was received by Group Captain Raymond Hart (Station Commander).

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 20: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited the Old Bailey and honoured the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Judges of the Central Criminal Court with her presence at luncheon.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 20: The Prince of Wales visited the ICI Fertilisers Severnside works to view the emissions monitoring analyser on the nitric acid plants.

His Royal Highness visited Rolls-Royce plc Bristol and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt.).

Commander Alistair Watson, RN and Mr Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, received the Lord Warden of the Stanneries and members of The Prince's Council at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (The Right Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP) at St James's Palace.

The Princess of Wales visited the offices at Childline Scotland, 33 Stockwell Street, Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Right Hon. the Lord Provost).

Subsequently The Princess of Wales visited the Head Office of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Deaf, 100 Norfolk Street, Glasgow.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness visited the Glasgow Women's Reproductive Health Service Group, Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital, Rotten Row, Glasgow.

Finally Her Royal Highness visited the Gulf Crisis Self-Help Support Group, 27 Elmbank Street, Glasgow.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Mr Patrick Jephson were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attended the 1991 Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Mrs George West and Squadron Leader David Barton, RAF were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 20: The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a Service of Dedication for the Royal College of Organists at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, London EC4.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

The King of Norway celebrates his birthday today.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum, will attend a trustees meeting at 10.30; as President of the Maritime Trust, will attend a luncheon and present the second 'Cutty Sark' medal in Cutty Sark, Greenwich, at 1.10; and, as Patron of the Friends of the Royal Academy, will attend a reception at Burlington House at 7.15.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will open the restored headquarters of the Industrial Society, Peter Runge House, Carlton House Terrace, at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Royal Town Planning Institute, will present the 1990 Award for Planning Achievement at Glaziers' Hall at 10.30.

The Duchess of Kent, Honorary Freewoman, will unveil a portrait and attend a reception at Clothworkers' Hall at 11.15; and will present the Royal Philharmonic Society/Charles Heidsieck Music Awards at the Barbican Centre at 7.35.

Flower show revives a Victorian theme

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Horticultural Society's flower show at Westminster, which ended yesterday, commemorated the centenary of the snowdrop conference, when worthy Victorians spent an entire day discussing these popular spring bulbs.

The RHS had an exhibit of books, paintings and photographs from the Lindley Library; the garden at Wisley, Surrey, had a display of snowdrops from the National Collection, and Foxgrove Plants, of Enborne, Berkshire, staged a collection of species and hybrids including a new tall, long-petalled one with the strange name of "Carpenter's Shop".

Although the recent severe weather took its toll on the number of exhibitors, a wide variety of stands filled the hall, from dried flowers to orchids, with spring bulbs predominating.

Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishop's Hull, Somerset, staged 20 different snowdrops, and an unusual spring-flowering sternbergia species named *candida* with white crocus-like flowers. The exhibit won a gold medal.

Avon Bulbs, of Mid Lambrook, Somerset, featured hellebores (hardy perennials) among its bulbs, including *Helleborus x sternii* "Boughton Beauty" with striking red stems and green flowers.

Borde Hill Garden, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, was a leading prizewinner in the RHS ornamental plants' competition. Included in the exhibits were trusses of black berries from the hardy palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, which rarely fruits.

In the British Iris Society's early spring show, Mrs M. Frasser, of King's Langley, Hertfordshire, won the mini Peckham cup for three pots of reticulata irises and the trophy for most points.

Gold medals were awarded to the following artists: Pauline M. Dean, of Guildford, Surrey (irises); Katherine Pickles, of St Ola, Orkney (bulbs); Sir Peter Smithers, of Vico Morcote, Switzerland (photographs of ephiphyllum hybrids); and Kate Nessler, of Kingston, Arkansas, US (bulbs and other plants).

The RHS annual meeting was held on Tuesday. The Lawrence medal for the best exhibit shown to the society during 1990 was presented to Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire, for its display of trees, shrubs and other plants at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Memorial services

Sir Sydney Caine
The Nigerian High Commissioner attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Sydney Caine held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev W.J.D. Sirr officiated, assisted by the Rev William Meyer. Professor Michael Wise read the lesson. Sir Michael Caine, son, read *Pied Beauty* by Gerard Manley Hopkins and Lord Harris of High Cross gave an address. Among others present were:

Lady Caine (widow), Miss Emma Nicholson, MP (Lady Caine) (daughter-in-law), Miss Amanda Caine (granddaughter), Mr and Mrs David Bowyer and Mr and Mrs Andrew Bowyer (stepsons and stepdaughters-in-law), Mr and Mrs David Bryer and Mr and Mrs Vivian Brown (stepsons-in-law and stepdaughters), Miss Katharine Bowyer, Mr Edward Bowyer, Mr Andrew Bowyer and Mr Oliver Brown (stepgrandchildren).

Lady Harris of High Cross, Lord Campbell of Eskan, Lord Bottomley, Lord Bauer, Lord McFadzean, Lord Beloff, Lord and Lady McGregor of Durris, Lord Roll of Ipsden, Sir Richard Luce, MP, Mr Aubrey Jones, Mr John Moore, MP, Lady Montgomery Cuninghame, Sir George and Lady Bishop, Lady (Eugene) Melville, Sir Frederick Pedler, Dame Barbara Shenfield, Sir Peter Parker (chairman, London School of Economics and Political Science) with Dr J M Ashworth (director) and Dr Christine Challis (secretary), Sir Geoffrey Wilson, Sir Ralf and Lady Dahrendorf, Lady Waller, Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, Lady Allen.

Mr Peter Leslie (chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation), Mr Jonathan Taylor (Booker), Professor Peter Watson (Buckingham University), Mr David Glencross (Independent Television Commission), Mrs Susan Gold (Ancient Monuments Society), Mrs Michael Wise, Professor and Mrs B C Roberts, Professor Donald Watt, Professor Kenneth Robinson, Mr Anthony Pragnell, Mr M H Fisher, Mrs J L Oliver, Mr and Mrs Ronald Bryer, Mrs C Dopper, Mrs J Vill, Mr and Mrs Arthur Seldon, Mr Peter Dawson, Professor Donald MacRae, Professor Michael Leifer, Professor R J Harrison-Church, Dr and Mrs S E T Cusdin, Professor and Mrs Maurice Cranston, Mrs Sheridan Russell, Mr Kenneth Fleet and Mr Charles Regan.

Isla Lady Twysden
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Isla Lady Twysden was held at St Mary's Church, Charleton, Kingsbridge, Devon, on Friday, February 15. The Rector, the Rev Paul Hancock, officiated. Mr Jonathan Howlett, nephew, read the lesson and Mr Alan Campbell-Johnson, cousin, gave the address. Among those present were:

Mrs Angela Lacey-Marsh (niece), Mr and Mrs David Barons, Dr and Mrs Roger Blackney, Vice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman, RN, and Lady Brockman, Mrs Alan Campbell-Johnson, Mr Edmund Fellowes, Mr and Mrs Rupert Fellowes, Lieutenant-Commander John Holdsworth, RN, and Mrs Holdsworth, Mr and Mrs Ben Reuss, Mrs Alwyn Trundle, Mrs Rhona Wigan, Mrs John Wollen and Mr and Mrs Nigel Wollen.

King Olav V of Norway

A service in memory of King Olav V of Norway will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11 am on Thursday, March 21, 1991. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply for tickets, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope by March 7, to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 21, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted on March 14. All are welcome to attend.

OBITUARIES

SIR GEORGE CLARK

Sir George Anthony Clark, Bt, former president of the Ulster Unionist Council, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on January 24, 1914.

GEORGE Clark, who first entered Ulster politics in the 1930s, became an elder statesman of the Ulster Unionist party. As well as being a former MP in the Northern Ireland Parliament, he was for ten years from 1980 president of the Ulster Unionist party's governing body, and was appointed patron of the party last year.

George Clark was the son of Sir George Ernest Clark, second baronet, whom he succeeded in 1950. Educated at Canford, he played rugby and boxed for the school. He developed an interest in horse racing, created a stable at his home in Co Down and had several winners north and south of the Irish border. He became a member of the Orange Order in 1938 and received his 50 year service medal, having been leader of the order for ten years until 1967. He became a captain in the Black Watch during the second world war and was wounded at Dunkirk but went on to serve with the Eighth Army in the Middle East.

Entering Ulster politics in 1938, he represented the Dock constituency in Belfast in the old Northern Ireland Parliament. He lost his seat in 1945 and entered the Stormont Senate in 1951, remaining there until Stormont was prorogued by the Conservative government of Edward Heath in 1972.

He was chairman of the standing committee of the Ulster Unionist Council from 1967 until 1972. In his memoirs the former Northern Ireland prime minister, the late Brian Faulkner, described Clark as a "country gentleman of the old school" who represented the older and traditional element of the Unionist party. Later Clark received Faulkner's letter of resignation when the power-sharing executive fell in May 1974.

He remained with the more traditional wing of the party after Faulkner broke away to form his own. However, he attracted interest in the early 1960s when he had talks with the late Gerry Lennon, a nationalist senator, about the possibility of improving relations between both sections of the Northern Ireland community. These became known as the Orange-Green talks, but nothing concrete resulted from them.

In recent years he was again regarded as a tolerant voice within unionism and was looked upon as being progressive, although he was a member of a party delegation which made it clear to James Prior, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in 1982 that his party was opposed to rolling devolution. He resigned from the Ulster Unionist presidency last year but accepted the position of party patron.

A life long member of the Orange Order, he became the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland in 1957 and held the position for ten years before resigning because of pressure of work. During this period he was also president of the Imperial World Orange Council and its Imperial Grand Master. He was a trustee of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orange Orphans Society and a patron of the city of Belfast Loyal Orange Widows Fund. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Junior Brand Orange Lodge of Ireland and took a keen interest in all aspects of its work.

His hobbies included fishing and golf and he was a member of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club at Bangor.

He is survived by his wife and daughter.

GROUP CAPTAIN JOHN SELBY

Group Captain John Selby, DSO, DFC and Bar, wartime fighter pilot, died on February 17 aged 75. He was born on March 19, 1915.

THOUGH he joined the RAF too late to participate in the Battle of Britain, John Selby made a reputation for himself as a fighter pilot in later air fighting in North Africa and over Malta, from where he also covered the invasion of Sicily. He served in two famous fighter squadrons, the high-scoring No 73 and No 23, known as "The Flying Pirates" for the buccaneering approach it adopted when harrying Axis aircraft and shipping in the Mediterranean.

John Beauchamp Selby was born in London and educated at The Oratory School, Berkshire. He had a variety of jobs before the war — advertising, broadcasting and even the concert platform all claimed some of his attention — before finally being commissioned in the RAF in December 1940. At the ripe old age of 25 he was a few years senior to many of the teenaged pilot officers on whom so much had depended during the recently concluded Battle of Britain but he soon distinguished himself as an intrepid and skilled flyer and air tactician.

His first posting was to a Hurricane squadron based on Orkney, but late in 1941, still as a pilot officer, he joined No 73 squadron, also equipped with Hurricanes, in the Western Desert. This was a posting to a crack unit. No 73 had a formidable reputation; it had chalked up 45 kills even before the Battle of Britain opened and it played a leading role in the air defence of Britain thereafter. As the British and Axis armies swayed to and fro over Libya it was in the forefront of the action, operating under difficult conditions, trying to rob the Luftwaffe of command of the air.

When Selby joined No 73 it had switched to night fighting, at which he soon proved adept. His first victim was a Fiat CR 42 biplane fighter, one of a type which was being operated in numbers by the Italians in North Africa. Soon afterwards he shot down a Messerschmitt Me 109 and in night intruder operations, which involved lurking over enemy airfields to tackle Axis bombers as they landed, claimed a Junkers Ju 88. During 1942 he became commanding officer of the squadron which played a leading role in the air operations surrounding the Battle of El Alamein, strafing troops and vehicles in the rear of the Axis forces at night and helping dislocate attempts to reinforce forward units bearing the brunt of the 8th Army's push. Under Selby No 73 kept up its hot shot reputation and in one two-week period downed 50 enemy aircraft.

In 1943 Selby was sent to Malta to command No 23, a squadron of intruding Mosquitoes. Under him No 23's main task was the interception of enemy aircraft over their own bases at night and it gained its piratical reputation for the havoc it caused, particularly amongst transport aircraft hoping to operate safely under cover of darkness. During the invasion of Sicily in 1943 the squadron also flew night sorties to protect the 8th Army beachheads which had been established to the south of Syracuse on the morning of July 10, suppressing enemy air activity which vainly attempted to stem the advance inland.

Selby's second was his last squadron command in a career as a fighter pilot which had won him a DSO and two DFCs. But a new task awaited him in Yugoslavia where, in 1944, he became air liaison officer to Brigadier Fitzroy MacLean, who was working with the partisans. Selby's task was initially the organisation of air support for the guerilla bands and later the training of the first partisan fighter squadrons.

He left the RAF in 1947 and had a period back in broadcasting, working in the the BBC's overseas service. Thereafter he, successively, ran his own business in Rome, had a job in the City, worked as an export manager in the Middle East and became a commercial consultant in Geneva before retiring in 1978, to Vence, in the Alpes Maritimes, where he died.

He leaves his widow, Kiki, and a son and a daughter.

JOHN DODD

John Harold Dodd, secretary of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) from 1976 until 1982, died on February 9 aged 73. He was born on December 7, 1917.

JACK Dodd was involved with education throughout his life but his influence was greatest and he became most widely known during his six years as secretary of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools and in his two years as chairman of the council of the association in 1965 and 1968. He was a leading figure in his sphere of education for more than three decades.

His father was teaching at Clayesmore when Dodd was born in Sparsholt near Winchester. Three years later the family moved to Downside, a preparatory school in Purley, where a Dodd was to be headmaster for the next 60 years. He went to Lancing as an exhibitioner and left with a scholarship in classics to King's College, Cambridge. He changed to history for his third year there, gained a first in part II of the tripos and was elected major scholar in that subject.

He joined up in 1939 and spent many months in intelligence analysing German bombing patterns in East Anglia and Kent. He was posted to Lagos in 1945 to train African soldiers to fight in Burma but the imminent ending of hostilities caused him, now a major and deputy assistant adjutant general, to become demobilisation officer instead, a popular position.

After his own demobilisation he joined his father as partner at Downside in September 1946 and became sole headmaster in 1957. Ahead of the times in the emphasis on music and drama, Downside was under him a school which combined efficiency and humanity. Though fully involved in many activities he found time to serve on the council of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools for 13 of the next 18 years. As chairman in 1965 he did much to persuade members of the need for more effective public relations. He thus enormously helped the evolution of the independent schools information service. To combat the political hostility of the time he invited Reg Prentice, then a Labour minister of education, to the annual conference, an unusual step in those days, and played a major part in subsequent discussions with Shirley Williams.

When he became secretary of the association he saw his role rather as a facilitator than as an initiator of new ideas. He was guide, friend and counsellor of successive chairmen and of any member who sought his help — and there were many, at home and from overseas. He was so efficient that he had time to give to everyone and his clear mind left no one in any doubt what had been decided in meetings.

During his six years in office there was a major change in the public's perception of independent schools, which had been regarded as archaic institutions by many who afterwards came to realise their relevance and effectiveness. Each year education correspondents of national newspapers were invited in early September to Oxford or Cambridge for the annual conference organised by him. The intention was to remove misconceptions about independent schools and instead portray them as worthwhile institutions doing valuable work.

Dodd leaves his widow, a son and a daughter.

STEWART MORRIS

I. G. B. writes:

YOUR admirable tribute to Stewart Morris (February 8) covered many of his successes and his contribution to yachting and its administration. Perhaps I may add two other aspects which deserve admiration. He took a very active role in the successful efforts for sailing to be permitted on reservoirs, and this led to facilities which have enabled a great many more people to enjoy local sailing and racing on inland waters. Secondly, team racing has developed enormously thanks to Stewart's efforts and enthusiasm.

In 1934 he was one of the founders of the Oxford & Cambridge Sailing Society, the main purpose of which was to visit and team race against clubs in various parts of the country. He was honorary secretary for over 30 years, not only organising the teams, but also frequently providing generous and genial hospitality. An example of his successful leadership was that in the first 10 years of the Wilson Trophy which has now become the world dinghy team racing championship the team which he captained was either winner or runner-up on six occasions.

Birthdays today

Mr Humphry Berkeley, writer and broadcaster, 65; Mr John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, 57; Professor Ruth Bowden, anatomist, 76; the Earl of Carlisle, 68; Mrs Jilly Cooper, author, 54; Sir Colville Deverell, former governor, Mauritius, 84; Professor Patrick Duff, former professor of civil law, 90; Mr Leslie Durbin, silversmith, 78; Dame Janet Fookes, MP, 55; Mr Carron Greig, former chairman, Baltic Exchange, 66; Sir Conrad Heron, civil servant, 75; Sir Reginald Hibbert, diplomat, 69; Sir John McGregor Hill, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 70; Lord Hunter, 78; Mr Peter McEnery, actor, 51; Mr Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, 67; Professor Sir Rupert Myers, former vice-chancellor, University of New South Wales, 70; Sir Alan Orr, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 80; General Sir Robert Pascoe, 59; Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 70; Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 64; Professor F.W. Rimmer, former professor of music, 77; Mr Richard Turner-Warwick, urologist, 66; Mr David Wood, actor and playwright, 47.

£450m bill for sea defences

ALMOST £450 million needs to be spent on flood protection in eastern England over the next ten years, the Anglian region of the National Rivers Authority said yesterday (John Shaw writes).

Most of this investment will go towards sea and tidal defences, which will account for £162.1 million and £177.8 million respectively, according to the regional flood defence committee. Another £107.4 million will go on river defences and £704,000 on flood warning systems.

John Martin, chairman of the committee, said the key priority remains the protection of life and property and £283 million was earmarked for protection of urban areas.

Most sea defence investment will be in Lincolnshire. Much of the tidal defence programme will be in Norfolk and Suffolk to protect the Norfolk broads and half the river defence spending will take place in the Fens.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J.H.L. Bailey
and Dr S.F. Barrington
The engagement is announced between Lewis, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bailey, of Cheam, Surrey, and Sally, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Barrington, of East Sheen, London.

Mr J.N. Baltesz
and Miss L.J. Nickerson
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Baltesz, of Westleigh, Bideford, Devon, and Louise, elder daughter of the late Sir Joseph Nickerson, of Rothwell, Lincolnshire, and of Mrs Erna Nickerson, of North Willingham, Lincolnshire.

Mr J.A. Connick
and Miss A. Tottle
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs H. Ivor Connick, of London, and Alison, only daughter of Mrs Valerie Tottle, of Congleton, Cheshire.

Mr J.J. Corbett
and Miss T.J.S. Young
The engagement is announced between Jaspar, son of the late Mr John Corbett and of Mrs Edward Baxter, of Tatey Castle, Pewsey, Wiltshire, and Tara, daughter of Mrs Christopher Petrie, and stepdaughter of Mr Christopher Petrie, of The Limes, Crouch Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex.

Mr D.L. Craig
and Miss J.L. Gardner
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Craig, of Kilrea, County Londonderry, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gardner, of Birchanger, Essex.

Mr A.C.B. D'Janoeff
and The Hon Anne Rodney
The engagement is announced between Alexander, only son of the late Mr Constantine D'Janoeff and of Mrs D'Janoeff, of Windsor, Berkshire, and Anne, only daughter of Lord and Lady Rodney, of Kensington, London.

Mr D.P. Drew
and Miss K.L. Dodsworth
The engagement is announced between Dean, elder son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Drew, of Swallowfield, Berkshire, and Kathryn, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Dodsworth, of Stoughton Lodge Farm, Leicestershire.

Mr N.E. Goodway
and Miss Z.E.M. Biddick
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Dr Keith Goodway and the late Mrs Cordelia Goodway, of Keele, Staffordshire, and Zoë, daughter of the late Rev J.E.P. Biddick and of Mrs Diana Biddick, of St Merryn, Cornwall.

Mr J.R. Leach
and Miss D.V. Corrie
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Leach, of Brighton, and Deborah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruce Corrie, of Oxford.

Mr J.M. Lello
and Miss H.R. Simpson
Mr and Mrs John Simpson, of Wyre House, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Helen to Mark, second son of Mr and Mrs John Lello, of William Goodenough House, Mecklenburgh Square, London.

Mr C.P. Neve
and Miss E. Fricker
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs N.J.F. Neve, of Colwall, Herefordshire, and Emma, younger daughter of M and Mme J. Fricker, of Crespieres, near Paris.

Mr A.J. Oakley
and Miss S.F.M. Love
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Oakley, of Old Hall Green, Hertfordshire, and Stella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Love, of Chetnole, Dorset.

Mr T.G. Oliver
and Dr D.K. Kelly
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Oliver, of Reading, Berkshire, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Kelly, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.S. Parfit
and Miss H.M. Dutfield
The engagement is announced between Jeremy Spencer, only son of Mr and Mrs D.G. Parfit, of Shaftesbury, Dorset, and Helen Mariette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.T. Dutfield, of London.

Mr R.A. Philipps
and Miss F.K. Rubinstein
The engagement is announced between Roland Alexander, second son of the Hon Hugo Philipps, of Llanstephan, Powys, and Viscountess Norwich, of Blomfield Road, London, and Felicity Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hilary Rubinstein, of Clarendon Road, London.

Mr B.J. Rooney
and Miss J.A. Godfray
The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Dr J.F.F. Rooney and of Mrs Susanna Rooney, of Nags Head, Gloucestershire, and Jennifer, daughter of the late Mr Hugh Godfray and of Mrs Annette Tingley, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

Mr S.J. Sprague
and Mrs J.A. Oates
The engagement is announced between Shaun, eldest son of Mrs Diana Sprague, of Yealmpton, Devon, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Barrington, of East Sheen, London.

Mr C.E.J. Thompson
and Miss A.A.M. Eve
The engagement is announced between Charles Edward James, second son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Thompson, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Amanda Anne Melhuish, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Eve, of Crowthorne, Berkshire.

Mr M.H. Whiteley
and Miss E.L. Pound
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Eric Whiteley, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Pound, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

University news

Durham
Appointments
Dr Keith Edward Turver, reader, to be professor of physics.

Dr Alan Purvis, lecturer, to be reader in electronics.
Ms Audrey Elizabeth Mullender to be director of the centre for applied social studies, department of sociology and social policy.
Dr Paul Maropoulos to be lecturer in the school of engineering and applied sciences. Mr Colin George Crowder to be lecturer in theology.

Dinners

NCH George Thomas Society
The Lord Chancellor was the guest speaker at a dinner of the NCH George Thomas Society held last night at the Inner Temple. Mr Neville Shulman, chairman, presided. The other guests included:

Lord and Lady Murray of Epping Forest, Sir Trevor and Lady Holdsworth, Mr Tony Baldry, MP, Mrs Neville Shulman, Miss June Mendoza, Mrs Robert Maxwell and Miss Angharad Rees.

Institute of Petroleum
The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and the Rev W. Andrew Wylie were the guest speakers at the annual dinner of the Institute of Petroleum held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Basil Butler, president, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mrs Neelie Smit-Kroes, Sir Alan Bailey and Mr R.D. Yeomans also spoke. Among those present were:

Lord Aldington, Baroness Birk, Baroness Blatch, Lord Butterfield, Lady Butterworth, Field Marshal Lord Carver, Lord Chorley, Lord Fraser of Kilmorack, Lord Gregson, Lord Kearton, Lord Nelson of Stafford, Baroness Platt of Writtle and Lord Renwick.

The Marketing Group of Great Britain
Mr David Wynne-Morgan presided over the dinner held last night at the Dorchester Hotel by the Marketing Group of Great Britain. The guest speaker was Sir Graham Day, Chairman, Rover Group Holdings plc.

BMA
Dame Rosemary Rue, President of the British Medical Association, presided at a dinner held last night at BMA House in honour of the Hon William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Health. Among others present were:

Sir Christopher France, Sir Roy Griffiths, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Mr Stephen Dorrell, MP, Mr Duncan Nichol, Dr A W Macara, Dr J Lee-Potter, Dr J A Riddell, Dr I T Field and Dr R Smith.

Service dinner

Yeoman Warders
The annual dinner of the Body of Yeoman Warders was held last night at HM Tower of London. The principal guests included:

Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Boorman, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, Sir John Dellow, Major-General Sir Michael Palmer, Major-General C Tyler, Air Vice-Marshal D Hawkin, Major-General J P W Friedberger, Major-General B T Pennicott and Major-General A C Birtwistle.

Luncheons

Rotary Club of London
The American Ambassador was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Nick Tarsh, president, was in the chair.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Sir Idris Pearce, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, yesterday entertained at luncheon at 12 Great George Street Mr Tim Yeo, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Karl Czerny, pianist and composer, Vienna, 1791; John Henry Newman, cardinal, London, 1801; Léo Delibes, composer, St Germain du Val, 1836; August von Wasserman, bacteriologist, Bamberg, Germany, 1866.

DEATHS: Robert Southwell, Jesuit and poet, executed, London, 1595; Baruch Spinoza, philosopher, The Hague, 1677; Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, Hungerford, Berkshire, 1741; John Carles Rossi, sculptor, London, 1839; Sir Frederick Banting, killed in an air crash, Newfoundland, 1941; Malcolm Little (Malcolm X), American Muslim leader, murdered, New York, 1965, Mikhail Sholokhov, novelist, Vishenskaya, Russia, 1984.

President names state advisers

Mary Robinson, the Irish president, broke new ground yesterday when she named her Council of State.

The seven new members include a Protestant who is prominent in Northern Ireland community relations. Quintin Oliver is director of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Also included on the 18-strong advisory body are four women involved in politics, the environment and trade unions and a disabled journalist.

The changes reflect Mrs Robinson's pledges to help poorer sections of society and to build closer links with the North.

هكذا من الاصل

Take your part in suffering, as a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 2: 3 GNB

BIRTHS

BICKEY - On February 20th 1991, to Marianne (née Coleman) and Simon, a son, Kit Anthony William.

CAMERON - On February 8th 1991, to Annie McClure and Ian Cameron, a daughter, Katya Cameron, a sister for Zara, Jamie and the late Natasha.

CHARRINGTON - On February 19th 1991, to Mary Annie (née Davies) and Richard, a son, Henry Alexander.

DIXEY - On February 19th, to Diana (née Fanshawe) and Josh, a daughter, Iona, a sister for Charles and Piers.

GALTON - On February 9th, to Clare (née Coady) and Simon, a daughter, Emily Elizabeth, a sister for Miranda.

ILETT - On February 6th, at Kingston Hospital, to Barbara (née Peart) and Stephen, a daughter, Eleanor Clare.

KUROYANAGI - On February 12th, at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Hiromi and Hiroshi, a son, Asuka William, a brother for Sora.

LONG - On February 18th, to Rowan and Wendy, a son, Oliver Edward William.

MORLEY - On February 16th, to Jeanette (née Bullock) and John, a daughter, Bryony Anne Clare, a sister for Guy.

MOVERLEY - On February 12th, to Carol (née Mould) and Grahame, a son, Michael Robert. Our thanks to the staff at St Helier Hospital.

PATERSON-HUMPHRIES - On February 14th 1991, to Mike and Carol, a little darling, Daisy George, at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, a sister for our Jack. Pax et Amor.

PEEL YATES - On February 15th 1991, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Caroline (née Nelson) and Julian, a son, Harry David Christian.

REX - On February 20th, to Heather (née Talbot) and Ben, a son, Joshua Benjamin.

SIMPSON - On February 19th, to Erica (née Allen) and John, a son and heir, John Nicholas Augustus.

THOMAS - On February 7th, to Jane and Stephen, a son, Humphrey William.

WELLS - On January 20th 1991, at Aiiku Hospital, Tokyo, to Susie and John a daughter, Olivia Sachiko Jane, a sister for Claire Hana Jane.

WORROW - On February 19th in Canterbury, to Gay (née Adams) and David, a son, Harry Thomas Maximilian.

DEATHS

AUCOIN - On February 18th 1991, Marcel B. Aucoin, aged 39, beloved son of Mrs Mary Aucoin of Port Carling, Ontario, Canada and his eight brothers and three sisters and will be sadly missed by his partner Mr Ian Cooper. Secular ceremony will be held at Mortlake Crematorium at 2.30 pm on Thursday February 28th. No flowers please, donations may be sent to the Middlesex Hospital Chapel Restoration Fund c/o Middlesex Hospital.

BUNZL - On Sunday February 17th, Ursula Ellen, suddenly at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Funeral, 2 pm Sunday February 24th, Chislehurst Cemetery. Enquiries Tom and Marian Bunzl. (081) 458-2691.

CAMPBELL - On February 19th, peacefully at her home in Poughkeepsie, Mildred Campbell, formerly Professor of History, Vassar College, much loved by her friends and students.

CLARK - On February 20th 1991, suddenly, Sir George Anthony, in his 78th year, dearly loved and loving husband of Nancy and dearest father of Liz. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if wished to U.D.R. Benevolent Fund, HQ U.D.R., B.F.P.O. 825.

CLUTTERBUCK - On February 20th, 1991, peacefully after many years of illness borne with courage and humour, Edmund Harry Michael, aged 70 years of Edinburgh and Hornby Castle, Bedale, Yorkshire. Dear husband of Anne, beloved father of Sarah, Celia, Katie and Roger and proud grandfather to his grandchildren. Funeral Service at the Collegiate Church of St Vincent, St Stephen Street, Edinburgh, on Monday February 25th at 11 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

CLEMENT - On February 19th suddenly at Cheltenham General Hospital, Kathleen Mary, beloved wife of David, darling mother of Mary, sadly missed by son-in-law David and granddaughters Freya and Annabelle. Funeral Service at St Thomas Church, Swansea, on Tuesday February 26th at 2.30 pm, followed by burial at Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea. Family flowers only, but if desired donations to Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1N 4AR.

COHEN - On February 19th 1991, Elvira (née Brubneen), dearly loved by her husband Monty and her devoted family. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, on Monday February 25th at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations welcome to Cancer Research or St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, E8.

CONSTANDUROS - On February 19th, peacefully in hospital, Major Basil Constanduros, M.B.E., R.A. (Rtd.), aged 83. Beloved husband of Helen and much loved father of Pamela and grandfather of Thomas. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Burbage, Wiltshire, at 2.30 pm on Friday March 1st. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, Artillery House, Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London SE18 4DN.

dePINTO - On February 18th 1991, peacefully, Olive Wanda, of Stradbroke and Kensington. Funeral Service at St Stephen's, Kensington, on Wednesday February 27th at 3 pm, followed by cremation at Mortlake, 4.30 pm. Tributes on Tuesday noon to W.S. Bond Ltd., 127 Fulham Palace Road, W6. tel: (081) 748-3186.

ELLIOT-KNOWLES - On February 16th 1991, at the end of a long battle against cancer, fought with great courage and humour, Ann, Adam's dearly loved wife, took her leave at home and at peace.

HAMILTON - On February 20th 1991, peacefully at Chateaux du Village Private Nursing Home, Guernsey, Mirian Millicent (McNeill), formerly of East End House, Thankerton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Private funeral.

HARRISON - On February 17th, Irene Elizabeth, aged 87, formerly of Ilford, Essex, peacefully following a brief illness at Mascalls Nursing Home. Cremation service to take place at the Royal Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday February 25th at 3 pm. No flowers, donations if desired to The Salvation Army c/o Sears Funeral Service, 22 Church Rd., Paddock Wood, Kent, tel: (089283) 6663.

HOPKINS - On February 20th, suddenly in hospital, Keith Burne, DSC., VRD., RNVR. (Retired). Youngest son of the late Hugh Hopkins, antiquarian bookseller, Glasgow. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Donations in his memory to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, please.

HOSKINS - On February 15th, peacefully at home in Pinner, The Reverend Hubert Henry. Funeral Service at St Alban's Church, North Harrow, at 2.15 pm on Wednesday February 27th. Family flowers only please.

HOWAT - On February 19th, peacefully in Tonbridge Cottage Hospital, Joyce, sister of Nannette Foster, in her 82nd year. Funeral Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at 12 noon on March 4th. No flowers, but donations please to W.R.V.S., Mount Ephraim House, Tunbridge Wells.

KANNREUTHER - On February 19th, Josephine (Joe), formerly of The Lenches, Eckington, peacefully at The Albany Park Nursing Home, Cheltenham. Funeral on Monday February 25th at 2.30 pm at Cheltenham Crematorium. No flowers.

LAWSON - On February 15th 1991, at Blinkbonny, Newburgh, Fife, Alick, dearly loved husband of Marjorie, father of David and Elizabeth (Tarling) and grandfather. Funeral private. Memorial Service to be held later.

LIVENS - On February 18th, peacefully in Llanelli, Emma Charlotte, aged 97 years, widow of Professor G.H. Livens, mother of Ursula and Robin, grandmother of Francis and Roger. The cremation at Morriston Crematorium, Swansea, at 10.30 am on Tuesday February 26th. Family flowers only, contributions please to Save the Children Fund, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, SE5 8RD.

LAVINGTON - On February 17th, Winifred M.E., widow of Kenneth, peacefully in her sleep, aged 88. Funeral St Mary's Church, Goring-by-Sea, 2.15 Wednesday 27th.

LEAN - On February 16th 1991, suddenly, Janet, dearly loved daughter of the late Captain Trevor Lean, D.S.O., Royal Navy (Retd.) and Mrs Lean, sister of Jennifer and fond aunt of Piers, Juliet and Magnus. Requiescat in pace. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday February 26th 1991 at All Saints, Clifton, at 1.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only or donations, if wished, to Mencap, c/o CRS Funeral Services, 99 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol, 5.

MANSERGH - On February 18th, Dora Mary (née Spranger), widow of Vice-Admiral Sir Aubrey Mansergh and of the late Commander Laurence Clarke. Mother of Hilary and Sheila, stepmother of Barry. Funeral at St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean, on Thursday February 28th at 3 pm. Donations if wished to The Royal British Legion, c/o E. Carter & Son, 20 Marine Drive, Rottingdean, East Sussex, BN2 7HQ.

MERRETT - On February 16th 1991, peacefully in Cambridge, New Zealand, John, late of Kenya, beloved husband of Mary and father of Sue, Mike and Angie.

MOLECEY - On Thursday February 14th, Charles Eric John ("Twiggs" to his friends), at his home in Bexhill. A simple memorial service will be held at Eastbourne Crematorium at 3.30 on Tuesday February 26th. John explicitly requested no flowers or children at the service, but that friends join the family after the service. For details contact 081-305 1274 or 081-858 9771.

MORUM - On February 15th, peacefully, Francis, beloved husband of Dora and brother of Kay, much loved father of Mark and John, dearly loved by all his family and friends. Memorial Service at Christ Church, Lubbock Road, Chislehurst on Thursday, February 21st at 3 pm. Family flowers only, by request. Donations, if wished, to R.N.L.I.

NAPP - On February 16th, Brian John, deeply loved husband, beloved son and brother and special friend to so many. A funeral service will take place at St. Leonard's Church, Cliddesden, nr. Basingstoke, Hants on Saturday 23rd February at 11.00 am. Family flowers only or donations if preferred to the National Asthma Campaign, c/o Alexander & Dry Funeral Directors, 1, Seal Road, Basingstoke, Hants.

SALES - On February 13th, at his home in Cantley, William Henry. Dear husband of Katharine, much loved father and grandfather. The Funeral Mass was held yesterday, Wednesday February 20th.

STOCKS - On February 19th 1991, peacefully at home, Elizabeth Price Stocks, beloved wife of the late Dr. H.C.L. Stocks and dearest mother of Guinevere, Linton and Adrian. Cremation at Mortlake on Tuesday February 26th at 3 pm. Flowers and enquiries to T.H. Sanders and Sons Ltd., 447 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, London SW14, tel: (081) 876-4673.

STUTCHBURY - On February 19th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, peacefully, Marjorie, widow of Group Captain Bill Stutchbury and much loved mother of Peter, Wendy and John (deceased). Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday February 25th at 11 am. Memorial Service at Christchurch, East Sheen, London at 3 pm.

VINCENT - On Sunday February 17th, peacefully at his home in London, Richard Henry (Harry), aged 85, formerly of Perth, Western Australia. Dearly loved husband of Jean and father of Morwenna, Judith and Angela. Funeral Service at the Church of St Mary on Paddington Green, London W2, on Thursday February 28th at 1 pm, followed by interment at Highgate Cemetery.

WALKER - On February 20th, of Hunters Hall, Old Malton, Eleanor M.K., daughter of the late Major and Mrs Harold Walker and a dearly loved sister. Funeral Service 11.30 am on Tuesday February 26th at The Priory Church, Old Malton, followed by interment. Floral tributes may be sent to Dodsworth Funeral Service, 9 Market Place, Malton.

FEB 21 ON THIS DAY 1962

Many Americans felt humiliated, when, in April 1961 the Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the earth. Their pride was recovered by Colonel Glenn's achievement and boosted further by the moon landing in 1969. John Glenn has been a US Senator (Ohio) since 1975.

Round Earth 3 times then down safely

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Feb 20

The United States sent Lieutenant-Colonel John Glenn triumphantly into orbit three times round the earth today and recovered him "hale and hearty" from the sea near Puerto Rico five hours 14 minutes after his take-off from Cape Canaveral. The flight was as nearly perfect as anyone could have expected and, completed within the sight and hearing of the world, was a tremendous triumph for the United States.

The nation watched on television and much of the world listened to the Voice of America as Colonel Glenn, his past frustrations forgotten, exchanged a stream of technical information and friendly talk with his fellow astronauts stationed at tracking stations round the globe.

All the most crucial moments of the flight — take-off, attainment of orbit, re-entry into the earth's atmosphere and recovery from the sea — went perfectly and the only trouble of any sort, which affected the attitude control system, was not serious and did not interfere with the flight.

It was just five minutes after 3 o'clock this afternoon (Eastern Standard Time) when the nation received the news that Colonel Glenn, describing his own condition as "excellent", had been landed in the Freedom VII capsule on the deck of the destroyer Noa. He had then been almost nine hours in the capsule, which he entered at Cape Canaveral before dawn.

He was being taken to Grand Turk Island, in the Bahamas, after being "debriefed" and medically examined.

As Colonel Glenn re-entered the earth's atmosphere the heat shield heated to a temperature of about 3,000°. Observing it through his periscope, he commented over the radio: "Boy, that was a real fireball." He said the retro-rockets, when fired, felt as though they were sending him "clear back to Hawaii."

Colonel Glenn made a point of insisting that he was ready for a third orbit. "I am go for another orbit", he said, helping to resolve the doubts of officials on the ground. The bulk of his conversation with the ground consisted of a string of figures and facts largely unintelligible to the layman, but it was punctuated with such comments as, "I am feeling real well up here. All systems are go. I am having no problems."

The scene on the recovery ship could not be seen on television, of course, and had not been described in detail by this evening. Most of the reporters attached to the recovery forces were on board the aircraft carrier Randolph, and were therefore not present when Colonel Glenn stepped from th capsule on board the destroyer Noa.

All the information available came in brief reports from the Mercury control centre.

The complexity of today's operation, the volume of information relayed, and above all the scope of the flight almost defy description. In the course of his orbits, for example, Colonel Glenn saw three dawns and three nightfalls, crossed the International Date Line three times, passed three times from winter into summer, and crossed the Equator six times.

His heartbeats, his blood pressure, his reaction to four hours of weightlessness, his ability to move his head, to eat from special containers, and to control the attitude of the cone-shaped Mercury capsule were among the information monitored by a system of 60,000 route miles of communications facilities.

It was America's day and the nation basked in justifiable pride. Americans felt on equal terms, whether rightly or not, with the Soviet Union and one Senator spoke for many when he said: "I think the Russians are going to find that we not only have the capacity to come up from behind, but also to forge ahead as front runner."

BIRTHDAYS

A.W.K: Fish say, they have their stream and pond, but is there anything beyond?. Happy birthday sweet obsession. WW/WS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Dearest Sally, all 13 Corinthians can't be wrong. Love George.

TUBBY - 50 years young today. Happy Birthday darling. Shirley and Chris.

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TEMPORARY help required, daily or live-in for elderly lady living charming house near Alton, Hants. Simple cooking, some shopping. Car driver preferred. Non smoker. Other help kept. Interview London or Alton. Tel: 081 748 6479.

COMPANY NOTICES

Companies Act 1985, section 175
March Holdings Limited
(Company number 1785416)
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
1. March Holdings Limited has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by redemption:
2. The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares is £1,100,000.00, and the resolution approving such payment out of capital was passed on the 15th day of February 1991:
3. The directors' Statutory Declaration and the Auditor's Report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office at Aquis Court, 31 Fishpool Street, St Albans AL3 4RF.
4. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the 15th day of February 1991 apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Signed Brian A. Drewitt
Company Secretary

ELM HOUSE CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED
TAKE NOTICE that:
(a) By a Special Resolution dated the 22nd day of February 1991 and made pursuant to Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985, the Company has approved a payment out of capital in the sum of £87,000 for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase.
(b) The Statutory Declaration of the Directors together with the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office.
(c) Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the Resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Wellers
Tenison House
45 Tweedy Road
Bromley
Kent BR1 3NF
Solicitors to the Company

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Constant and Kit Lambert Prize Fund
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 310040-A1-LA.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity -The Guild of Psychotherapists.
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 297161-A1-CD(Lon1).

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2541631
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:
a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted in writing to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and
b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.
Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Northern Industrial Estates Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
MAPLE GLASS INDUSTRIES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 8th March 1991 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 11th day of February 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
IAN HARDING
DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICES

CLANMAR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS (ENFIELD) LTD.
TRADING NAME: CLANMAR HOMES

[illegible]

IN THE MATTER OF BURLINGTON COMMUNICATIONS GROUP LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 5th February I David Julian Buchler of Buchler Phillips & Co. 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company by the members and creditors.
Signed David Julian Buchler
6/2/91

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

... for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 8th day of February 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
MARK HOLMES
DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

... Creditors' Voluntary. Address of registered office: Treviot House 186-192 High Road, Ilford Essex. IG1 1JQ. Liquidator name and address: Richard Andrew Segal, Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 1JQ. Office holder number: 002686. Date of appointment: 6th February 1991. By whom appointed: Members & Creditors.
Date: 7th February 1991
Richard Andrew Segal
Liquidator

Continued on page 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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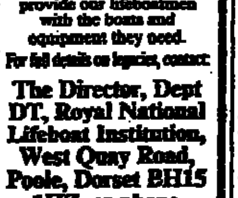

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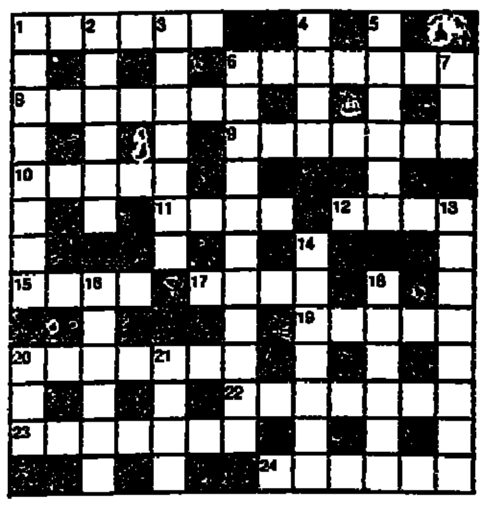


ACROSS
1 Day nursery (6)
6 Prevarication (7)
8 Take back (7)
9 Immediate (7)
10 Contribution (5)
11 Welsh fervour (4)
12 Germany, Poland river (4)
15 Itemise (4)
17 Slog (4)
19 Bumpkin (5)
20 Interrupt (5,2)
22 Scottish emblem (7)
23 Marriage split (7)
24 Craving (6)

DOWN
1 Grand fete (8)
2 Get away (6)
3 Fit (7)
4 Pile (4)
5 Warlock (6)
6 Wuthering Heights author (5,6)
7 Negation indicator (3)
13 Proper trial (4,4)
14 To the heavens (3,4)
16 Veer (6)
18 Water surface insect (6)
20 Base (3)
21 Scottish church (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2413
ACROSS: 2 Cube - 4 Char 7 Quota 9 Parachute 10 Emir 11 Spear 12 Theft 13 Noble 15 Otter 17 Ultra 18 Growl 20 Bell 21 Beelzebub 23 Overs 24 Emma 25 Bevy
DOWN: 1 Lorikeet 2 Cap 3 Barrel 5 Hour 6 Rien ne va plus 7 Questionable 8 Scornful 11 Stargaze 14 Bothered 16 Hobble 19 Term 22 Boy

Another small step for man

A NEW breed of semiconductor memory chips, each able to store the contents of a dozen books in an area the size of a fingernail, is moving out of the laboratory and into experimental production.

The 64-megabit chips will be placed not just in computers but in a wide range of electronic applications, although they are not likely to be in general use for about three years.

Powerful pocket computers will be limited in size only by the need for a visible screen, as heavy and slow disc drives are replaced by the small chips that can retrieve information almost instantaneously.

High-quality colour facsimile machines and audio recorders operating without tape by storing music digitally on the chips are next on the list. Electronic still cameras able to rival the quality of film are also likely to be manufactured.

The chips are also expected to be used in improving the technology in cars and reducing the cost of expensive high-definition television sets now being developed.

Last week, four Japanese companies said they had developed new circuit designs for the chips that will minimise problems caused by reducing the complexity and size of memory cells. Such designs should be more suitable for mass production.

The chips, known as dynamic random access memory, or dram, require circuit lines less than four-thousandths of a millimetre long to be etched on to a silicon base using photo lithography.

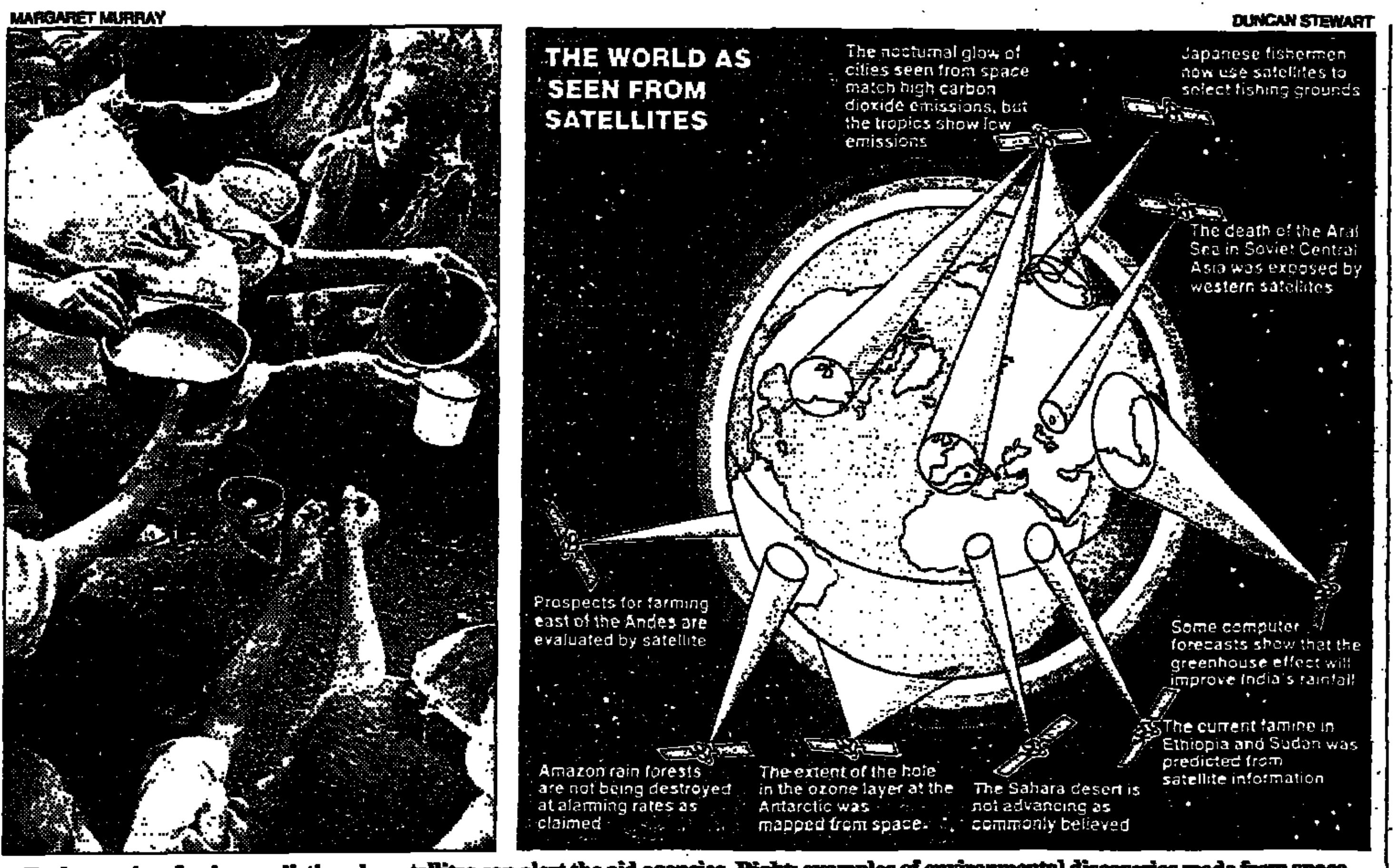
The announcements, made at a conference in San Fransisco, by Toshiba, Fujitusi, Matsushita and Mitsubishi, confirm the view that Japan is developing an unstoppable lead over Europe and the United States in the technology and, with it, a headstart in developing the many products that will be able to use them.

The most serious competitors outside Japan are the American IBM and German Siemens computer companies. They have agreed to develop a 64-megabit chip jointly to try to speed up the process and share the inevitably huge research and development costs.

The sale of such chips, which are 16 times as powerful as those now in use, is expected to reach a peak by the end of the decade, when they are likely to be superseded by the even more powerful 256-megabit chip.

MATTHEW MAY

MARGARET MURRAY DUNCAN STEWART


THE WORLD AS SEEN FROM SATELLITES
The nocturnal glow of cities seen from space match high carbon dioxide emissions, but the tropics show low emissions
Japanese fishermen now use satellites to select fishing grounds
The death of the Aral Sea in Soviet Central Asia was exposed by western satellites
Prospects for farming east of the Andes are evaluated by satellite
Some computer forecasts show that the greenhouse effect will improve India's rainfall
The current famine in Ethiopia and Sudan was predicted from satellite information
Amazon rain forests are not being destroyed at alarming rates as claimed
The extent of the hole in the ozone layer at the Antarctic was mapped from space
The Sahara desert is not advancing as commonly believed

Early warning: famine predictions by satellites can alert the aid agencies. Right: examples of environmental discoveries made from space

A true picture of Earth

Satellites are making scientists question our environmental assumptions. Nigel Calder allays some widespread fears about the planet

Have environmentalists been too alarmist about the state of the Earth? The latest pictures from space provided by satellites are giving more accurate information about the health of the planet.

Evidence from space contradicts some assertions, about the "marching Sahara", for example. The terrible droughts in the Sahel at its southern edge gave rise to quasi-scientific claims that the Sahara was advancing southwards at more than three miles a year.

Satellites now measure the vigour of African vegetation. When the rains are good, normal vegetation reappears in drought-afflicted areas and the desert shows no sign of a general advance.

Satellites show that, contrary to previous belief, productive land is lost not at the desert's edge but in moister districts where intensive grazing or attempts at cultivation over-tax low-fertility soil. The satellites also help to monitor droughts. Last summer, satellite experts at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation predicted the present famine in Ethiopia and the Sudan. The reason that the Sahel droughts have been more frequent in the past 20 years than earlier in the century may lie in sea-temperature changes in the Atlantic Ocean.

However, in other cases, space views have revealed environmental damage. The ozone hole over Antarctica, for example, was detected from the ground at Halley Bay, but the extent and growth of the hole mapped by satellite shocked the world into trying to curb ozone-unfriendly chemicals.

Even before glasnost allowed journalists to visit Soviet Central Asia's mismanaged irrigation schemes at ground level, western satellites observed the shrinkage of the Aral Sea as the most conspicuous man-made change to the face of the planet. Robbed of its river water, the once-bountiful Aral is a new Dead Sea. Salt from its dried-up seabed pollutes the winds and farmlands of Central Asia.

Brazilians have been angered by claims about the loss of the Amazon rain forest. Satellites that measure the growth of cleared areas from year to year show the reports are exaggerated. Recent clearances in Amazonia amount to betweeen 5 and 7 per cent of the forest, compared with the 44 per cent predicted by an American expert for the late Eighties.

There is still time for sensible action. At the edge of the Amazon basin, the Bolivians are using satellites to help to distinguish forest zones that may be suitable for long-term farming from those that are too fragile.

Attempts to blame tropical deforestation for a great part of the increases in carbon dioxide also fail. Ground-level measurements of carbon dioxide worldwide show relatively little input from the tropics.

A truer picture comes from a space image of the Earth at night, where the energy systems of the rich northern cities radiate extravagant amounts of light into the universe, making a close "geographical match" with the injections of carbon dioxide into the air. The nocturnal image of the Earth is perhaps the most striking satellite product, showing the differences in living standards from continent to continent.

Armchair environmentalists can be as casual about human survival as any armchair strategist. They seldom stop to ask why people have so many babies, or over-graze land or clear forests. They show too little awareness of cultures interacting with environments. Real-life issues range from Tokyo's creation of a futuristic "teleport" on a man-made island visible from space to the natural changes in river courses in Bangladesh, as mapped by satellite.

Nature is indifferent to how warm the planet is, or how many species survive. The only practical test for the quality of the environment is quality of human life.

The interpretation can be as broad as one wishes, but it must start with the biological fact that life expectancy is about 15 years less in the world's poor countries than in the rich ones. Human welfare and environmental well-being are not competing aims. They are identical.

● *The author is the producer of* Spaceship Earth, *a ten-part series which begins on Channel 4 today at 8pm and an accompanying book,* Spaceship Earth *(Viking, £17.99).*

Sniffing around for a life-saver

British scientists are searching for a microchip that can smell danger, like the smoke alarm

British research could lead to tiny, low-cost artificial noses being fitted to homes, factories and vehicles to detect useful or dangerous smells with split-second speed.

The project, to put a "nose" on a microchip, has just won funding from the Science and Engineering Research Council, and should be a world first in odour and electrical-engineering research.

During blizzards, stranded motorists awaiting rescue have died from carbon monoxide poisoning while running heaters from car engines to keep warm. A nose on a microchip linked to an alarm system would give drivers and passengers early warning of any build-up of hazardous levels of the poisonous gas, which is odourless and colourless.

The research project is being carried out by a team at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), which has earned an international reputation in artificial-nose engineering.

A Umist nose, made of 20 smell sensors surrounded by electronics, and measuring about 1ft long, recently outperformed a squad of truffle-sniffing pigs and another of truffle-snuffling dogs during trials in France.

The microchip nose would have both the sensors and the electronics integrated in a fingernail-size piece of silicon.

Dr Krishna Persaud, a Umist lecturer in instrumentation, who is leading the team, says *Edinburgh* university researchers are helping the project. Last month Edinburgh university announced it had developed a video camera on a microchip, paving the way for cheaper videophones, camcorders, electronic cameras and surveillance equipment. Dr Persaud says a nose on a chip may be achieved in two years.

The Manchester nose, which, like a rival system at Warwick university, tries to emulate the human equivalent, uses organic semiconductors to detect odour chemicals in seconds. It will not, however, be sensitive enough to detective explosives such as Semtex.

Dr Persaud says the nose has been undergoing trials with the European Space Agency (ESA) in Norway, in tests on a model of the Columbus space laboratory. Monitoring air quality in the manned laboratory, planned as part of the American Freedom space-station programme, will be vital. The nose would allow space technicians not only to detect the presence of airborne chemicals but also to pinpoint their source.

In the tests, which involved six people sealed in a laboratory mock-up, the Manchester nose picked up alcohols and ketones in the air emitted by the humans and from experiments. It also spotted the unexpected smell of lemons. Dr Persaud says analysis confirmed the presence in the air of lemonine, the chemical that give lemons their smell.

NICK NUTTALL

Nose for garlic: researcher Ahmed Outob with the odour detector

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LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from page 17

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ANGLO BOLIVIAN RESOURCES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 320069

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Anglo Bolivian Resources Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FARR AGGREGATES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 1906112

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Farr Aggregates Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FARR MACHINERY LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 1926221

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Farr Machinery Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
THE NORTH DOWNS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2360413

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at 55/57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX on Tuesday 5 March 1991 at 11.00 am.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receiver in writing and the claim has been duly admitted no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting.

b) A form of proxy is lodged with the Receivers which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to Receivers' office at Touche Ross & Co, 55/57 High Holborn, London WC1V 6DX.
Dated: 18 February 1991
A R HOUGHTON
and J P RICHARDS
Joint Administrative Receivers
The North Downs Motor Company Limited
(In Administrative Receivership)
Touche Ross & Co
55/57 High Holborn
London WC1V 6DX

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MULTIBLOC LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2062267

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Multibloc Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
GRANDCHANCE LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2077857

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Grandchance Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

IN THE MATTER OF
WOOD PRODUCTS OF WESTERHAM LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 5th April 1991, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and description, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Edward John Wacey, of Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Edward John Wacey
Liquidator
15th February 1991

IN THE MATTER OF
WOOD PRODUCTS OF WESTERHAM LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 15th February 1991, I Edward John Wacey of Buchler Phillips & Co, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company by the members and creditors.
Signed Edward John Wacey
Date 15th February 1991

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FARR DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2399632

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Farr Developments Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FARR PROPERTIES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2345805

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Farr Properties Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
EVEREST PROPERTIES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2311670

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Everest Properties Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FARR SECURITIES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 2381424

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
Farr Securities Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Re: Creditors Meeting
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WHITE HORSE PLANT LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
COMPANY NUMBER 1286972

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to S.48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Bristol Crest Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol, BS16 1QX on Thursday, 7 March 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

In accordance with Rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a creditor shall only be entitled to vote if:

a) Details of any debt claimed are submitted to the Receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, and

b) Where the creditor cannot attend in person a form of proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the Receivers before the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Claims and proxies should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Touche Ross & Co.
Dated 21 February 1991
For and on behalf of
White Horse Plant Limited
A M D Bird and J P Richards
Joint Administrative Receivers
Touche Ross & Co
Queen Anne House
69-71 Queen Square
Bristol BS1 4JP

هكذا : من الاعلى

Draw up a strategy for fear

If Gulf troops can face and control their apprehensions, Victoria McKee says, perhaps rail travellers can too

In the depths of the worst slump in their history, President Franklin D. Roosevelt told the American people, in March 1933: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

The young pilots filmed climbing out of their F15s and Tornados after bombing raids on Iraq freely admitted they had also had to fight the enemy within. Now, with threats, real or imagined, of terrorist attacks on civilian targets occupying the headlines, are there lessons we can learn from those who train soldiers and fighter pilots to face fear?

Colonel Arthur Denaro, who will lead the Challenger tanks of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars into combat in the Gulf, told reporters recently: "I have read as much as possible on the subject and I talked to experts, because I firmly believe that the more it is talked about among my troops the less they will worry about not being able to cope."

Do the "coping strategies" discussed by Colonel Denaro and his troops have any relevance to civilians, perhaps those who now feel nervous about travelling to London by train or Tube? James Thompson, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of London and a specialist on the psychology of fear, says: "It is important to distinguish between rational and irrational fear. We can 'decondition' someone from phobias — stop them being afraid of telephone boxes just because they once saw a bomb go off in one of them. But we can't stop them being afraid of bombs, because bombs are dangerous.

"The distinction between a fear and a phobia is made on the basis of whether the surrounding society sees the fear as realistic or not. A fear of a man approaching you with a gun is realistic. A fear of a spider, in our society, is

Dr Thompson agrees with prevailing military thinking that it is impossible to tell from the way people react in ordinary situations how they will react in extraordinary ones. "A hero or heroine", he says, "is usually someone who does something brave *once*, without realising the risks." Thompson says.

Lady Stormont, who last week chased armed raiders into the street waving a broomstick, hit a "panic button" by her bed but did not panic herself. "You must distinguish between that act and whether she'd do it again," Dr Thompson says.

A professional soldier, police officer or firefighter must be prepared to be brave repeatedly, as part of the job — with a realistic appraisal of the risks involved. "We can all become risk assessors," Dr Thompson says. "Everyone's got the same basic nervous system, so there's no real difference between military and civilians. It's a probability judgment. If you look at a thing as a statistician, your chances of dying from a bomb in Victoria station are very low. We think, 'in order to travel I am willing to accept the possibility of a train crash', but if people start putting bombs around the place it's a real, additional risk. A phobic reaction would be not to go out at all. To decide not to go by Victoria is an avoidance response."

> *'Imagine the worst that can happen, and then organise the options'*

How can you judge if your fear is becoming a phobia? "You have to decide how much you are disabled in your life," Dr Thompson says. "If you don't like lifts but never have to use them, it doesn't much matter. But if a friend says 'let's catch the Tube' and you can't go with them because you are afraid of travelling in the Tube, you might feel differently. Every avoidance has its cost."

High risk: emergency workers may weep after the event, but they calculate the dangers

"You can't totally block out fear," says a brigadier who has seen active service. "An intelligent man knows he's afraid. You've got to anticipate your fears, imagine the worst that could happen, and organise your options."

This principle can be applied by anyone wishing to assert a sense of control. And with a sense of control comes a lessening of fear.

Dr Thompson, who has worked with survivors of the King's Cross fire, says: "The way out of a fear is to find practical ways to cope. But if you have a phobia — an enormous fear about something that is *not* going to hurt you — the best treatment is to be exposed to the stimulus in a safe setting so you find out it doesn't harm you. I used to travel with Tube-phobic people, starting out on short overground trips, and gradually getting them to go underground, finally on their own."

Even in those cases it was important for the phobic people to understand as much as possible about the workings of the Underground system, where the exits were, and what they *could* do in an emergency. By the same logic, a survivor of the Cairo hotel fire says that now, when she goes to a hotel, she makes sure she has a ground or first-floor room, checks that the windows open and counts the number of stairs to the emergency exit. Paranoid? Perhaps. But it has given her a practical coping strategy to conquer an understandable fear.

In times of emergency a more primitive instinct can assert itself. A military training officer says: "The next time you're on a train, and it stops and the light goes out, and the guard comes down the corridor and says 'we're going to be here for hours' — watch how a train of total strangers will suddenly develop relationships under the stress of the situation."

Perhaps it was this that helped some of those stranded in London Underground trains for up to six hours on Tuesday to cope. Though some were clearly distressed, Dr Peter Hall, a consultant surgeon who attended several of the passengers, said: "My recollection is how remarkably calm everybody was."

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Pill full of promise

Up and down the country, as Valentine chocolate boxes empty, sweet-toothed men may be surprised to find that their wives or mistresses have eaten the nuts and left them with the soft centres, and later, at any celebratory dinner, to watch them enjoy the fish or meat but reject a black forest gâteau. The reason may not be sudden generosity, or abstinence, but the latest aid to slimming — Adifax (dexfenfluramine), which has a selective appetite suppressant effect on carbohydrate guzzlers.

Doctors, although fully aware of the increased health risks of being overweight, are often disillusioned by their patients' lack of perseverance with a diet, and abandon the battle. There is no magic drug which sheds weight without dieting. Attempts to alter the metabolic rate are ineffective and dangerous. But having considered and treated any underlying reason which prompts the patient to eat more than he or she needs — from depression, anxiety and loneliness to bad habits, or even a self-dislike (dysmorphia) — it is legitimate to prescribe drugs which help a patient to follow a reducing diet. Unfortunately the amphetamines, and other central nervous stimulants, can cause psychiatric breakdown and addictions.

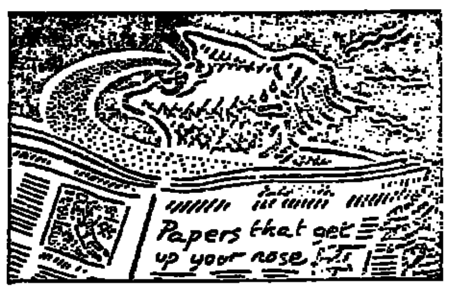
Adifax is a new drug, the dextrorotatory isomer of Ponderax (fenfluramine), which has been available for 20 years. By isolating the dextrorotatory constituent of fenfluramine, the tablets have become twice as effective, and the side-effects are halved. Adifax acts in a different way from amphetamines. It is not a stimulant, and does not appear to be addictive, but even so as a precaution it should be used for only three months at a time.

NICK MALAND

Adifax
For that Lighter than light Look!

The brain controls appetite. The regulatory mechanism is triggered by the balance between hunger and satiety, the sense of having had enough; whereas amphetamines reduce appetite. Adifax acts by *enhancing* satiety, thereby bluffing patients into thinking they have had enough. It specifically reduces the desire for carbohydrates, including biscuits, sweets, cakes and puddings, but leaves a normal appetite for protein. Adifax is one of a large group of drugs which affect serotin levels in the brain; most are antidepressants, but Adifax affects only appetite.

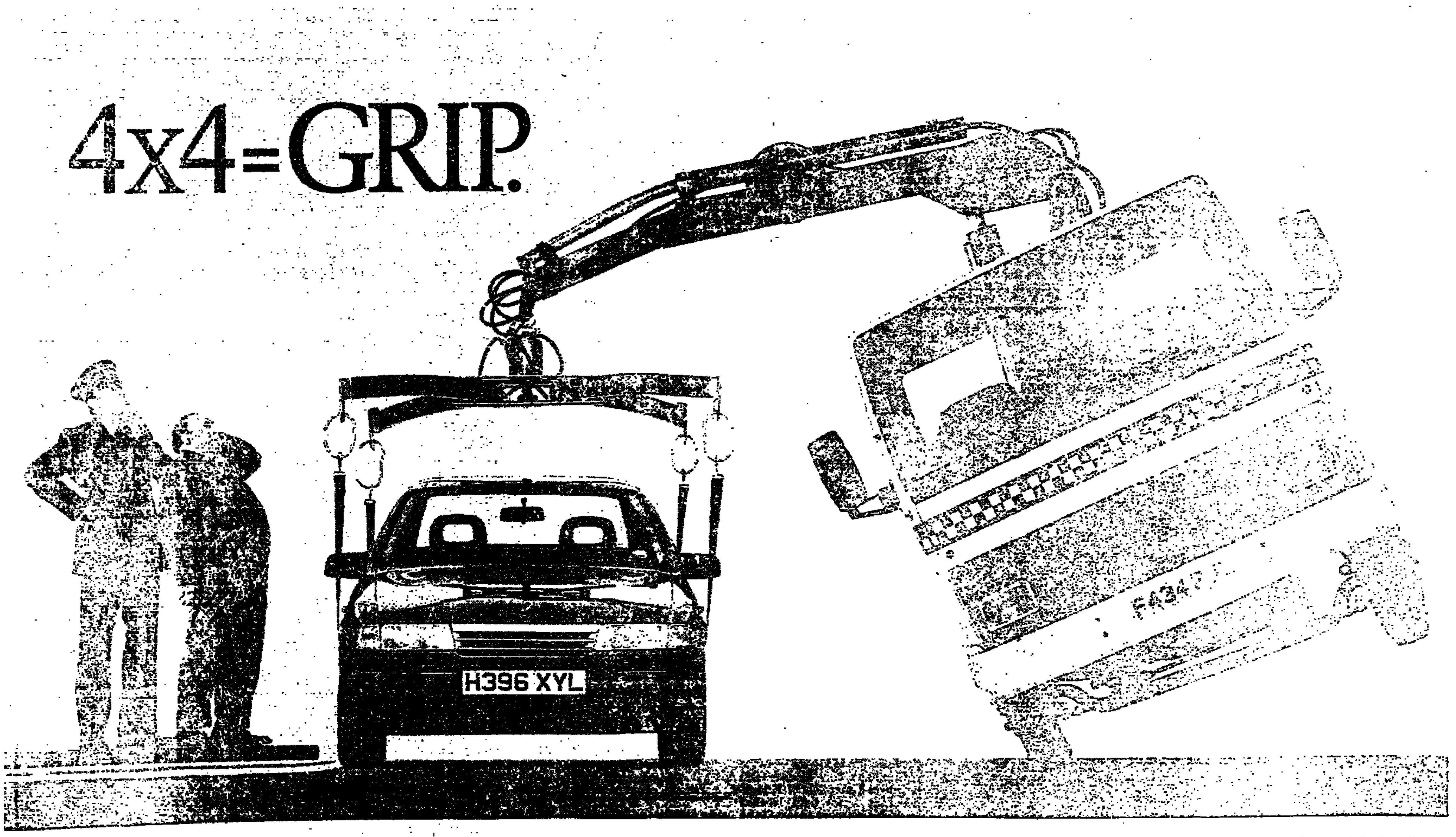
Not fit to read the news?


Papers that get up your nose

Allergies induced by reading newspapers were recorded in medical literature long before the outcry over war-reporting from Baghdad. So long as there have been newspapers, they have simply got up some people's noses, causing running noses (rhinitis), blocked nasal passages and sneezing.

The journal *Monitor* reports on the experiments of a group of Swedish ENT specialists, who are showing that, contrary to popular belief, this allergy is due not to the written word — whether the ink or the sentiment expressed — but to paper dust. People who delay reading their papers until the evening, in the hope that by then the ink will be drier, are deluded; any advantage in this strategy is due largely to a reduction in nasal sensitivity in the evening, or possibly partly because others who have read the paper earlier in the day have shaken off superfluous dust.

Allergic reactions can be made worse, or even caused, by getting upset, and so rather than renouncing the papers in favour of the BBC, which might complicate the clinical picture, paper-sensitive people would be better advised to rely on the latest generation of antihistamines — Clarityn, Zirtek, Triludan and Hismanal — which have fewer side-effects than the still too often prescribed, older antihistamines. Patients taking the new antihistamines, which cross the blood brain barrier only in very small amounts, find their intellect is undimmed and they can even manage a convivial drink without trouble.



By now, most people know that 4-wheel drive systems clamp you to the road. The Cavalier 4-wheel drive system is no exception.

Where it parts company with ordinary 4-wheel drive, though, is that it has brains as well as brawn.

By constantly monitoring the speed of each wheel, the system adjusts the power transmission between front and rear drive-shafts.

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Czechmate for church and state

Hugh Barnes reviews a masterpiece of biting dogmas and clashing symbols

THE MIRACLE GAME
By Josef Skvorecky
Translated by Paul Wilson
Faber, £13.99

Among that loose-knit aristocracy of contemporary writers who could be termed world-class novelists — those elevated men and women whose failures no less than their successes demand translation and international scrutiny — probably none is more vexatious than Josef Skvorecky. Or, at times, more downright annoying.

His novels can seem matchlessly uninviting to non-Czech readers on account of the mysterious plotting (Skvorecky rarely explains why anybody does anything), the grotesqueries of conduct and, in the case of *The Miracle Game*, other *roman à clef* elements (God and gonorrhoea) puzzling to outsiders. In his writing Skvorecky tends to punctuate long stretches of murky uneventfulness with sharp moments of extraordinary grisliness. This is an uneasy stylistic alliance often subsumed, in dust-jacket copy and critical discourse, under the catch-all designation "psychological thriller", but, as is true of Kafka and Kundera — two Czech writers whose interests he shares — Skvorecky creates on every page an unexpected compulsion.

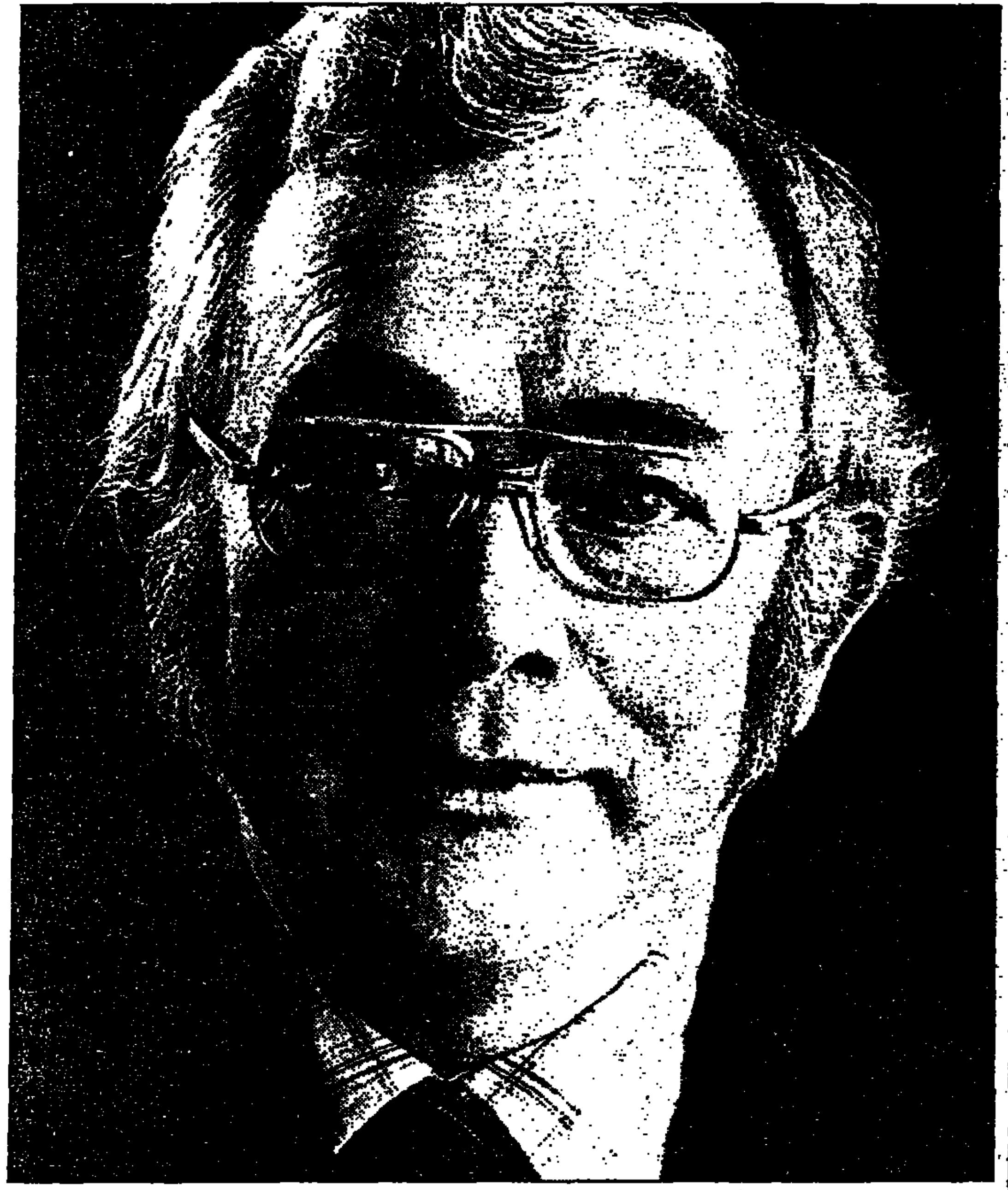
Before the revolution of 1989 there was always a certain amount of loose talk in the West about censorship being a muse. Writers behind the iron curtain were thought to be glamorous because they had a real subject to write about. It was easy to forget the hardship of struggling against a totalitarian system. Now, strangely enough, there appears to be a controversy over what might be called Kundera's internationalism. Some Czechs argue that his novels written in exile were written "for" the French, "for" the Americans, etc., and that this represents some sort of betrayal.

By contrast, Skvorecky and his wife, the novelist Zdena Salivarova, virtually abandoned their personal lives to work from Canada on behalf of suppressed Czech literature. *The Miracle Game* was the first novel that Skvorecky wrote after escaping from Czechoslovakia in 1968, in the wake of the Soviet invasion. It appeared in Czech in 1972, and was reprinted in umpteen samizdat editions. Now it is published in English for the first time.

Without doubt, *The Miracle Game* is Skvorecky's masterpiece. Vast in scope, morally engaged without being propagandistic, and intractable to explanation, it deploys a collage technique to recount the history of Czechoslovakia from the late Forties to the Prague Spring. Events are narrated out of sequence. The plot jumps backwards and forwards in time. In the middle of the whirligig is Danny Smiricky, a libidinous sax-playing dissident, and the author's alter-ego, who has served as protagonist and narrator of all Skvorecky's "serious" novels: *The Swell Season*, *The Bass Saxophone*, *The Engineer of Human Souls* and, still untranslated, *The Tank Corps*.

The plot refers to a happening in a church in the Bohemian village of Hronov during the spring of 1949. One morning, while Danny is teaching at the Hronov Health and Social Workers' School, a wooden statue of St Joseph appears to move during mass.

Unevenness of belief is the theme of *The Miracle Game*, which pits the absolutism of the Catholic religion against that of Marxism-Leninism. The church proclaims a miracle. The party denounces a fraud. Meanwhile the local priest, Father Doufal, dies in police custody. Twenty years later the unresolved mystery is investigated after the fashion of a whodunit. The dogmas of church and state confront each other again.



Read the unbearable lightness and heaviness of being Josef Skvorecky, the novelist between two worlds

There is another line of development in *The Miracle Game*, alongside swivelling St Joseph and the sordid biography of its anti-hero, and this line has a cautionary tone. Skvorecky's account of political, religious and sexual manoeuvres develops unexpectedly into a symposium (with diagrams) on pulleys and levers and electromagnetism and other possible causes of the "miracle". The cover-up becomes a game, a metaphor for the suppression of the Prague Spring — a socialist miracle — and the result is at once ingenious and moving.

Skvorecky is, in some respects, Kundera's opposite. The two novelists could hardly be more different as far as temperament goes. And yet the affinity for erotic bizarrerie, the fierce opposition to despair, and the tendency to mix politics and narrative create an odd, tense kinship.

The Miracle Game is a wonderful novel, in which Skvorecky juggles ideas. He undergoes astonishing transformations as Kafka did in *Metamorphosis*, but there is no magic, no hocus-pocus here. In fact, Skvorecky prescribes an antidote to magic realism: the book stings. Its elusiveness, its distaste for generalisation and summary, may foster at timesa sense of incompleteness.

Skvorecky is a polished writer as well as a literary adventurer. His dismay accumulates in short paragraphs, in chapters of moderate length. The transparent prose reminds you that bad things happen and makes you believe they happen in just this way; it is manipulative, utterly convincing.

Dark home truths about the family

John Nicholson

MAD ABOUT BEES

By Candida Crewe
Heinemann, £13.99

FALLING ANGELS
By Barbara Gowdy
Bloomsbury, £13.99

CURRENT AFFAIRS
By Barbara Raskin
Bantam, £13.99

There are fashions in mental illness. Look at the last 40 years. The cold war paranoia of the Fifties gave way to the edgily optimistic Sixties, Arthur Schlesinger's *Age of Anxiety*. Then we had punk, and a decade of depressed helplessness. In the Eighties — remember them? — the pendulum swung back, towards manic, Big Bang money-making, and the stress of keeping the stuff long enough to spend it. Now it's *fin de siècle* again, time for another switch. But to what? Last time round the Nineties were Naughty, with hysterical underpinnings. This time, it seems the century is due to end not with a bang, but a whimper.

Who says? Trend-spotting journalist Candida Crewe, that's who. Still in her mid-twenties, Miss Crewe already has three neat comedies of manners under her belt. So we must take seriously the contention of her fourth novel, Mad About Bees, that obsessive compulsion is the fashionable new mental malaise. Her hero, Samuel Sorrell, is funny about electricity. He thinks it's poisonous, so has to check all the sockets before going to bed, for fear his children will die in the night. Normal to the naked eye, Sam likes a nice cup of coffee, but has to tap his head exactly 24 times before he can drink it, or else he collapses in a jibbering heap.

Strange behaviour for a man of science, you might think (Samuel teaches biology at a comprehensive in Parson's Green). But no stranger than his infatuation with Lucy Hardcastle, head of English, and staffroom siren. After all, he has a devoted wife, Liza, and a brace of beautiful kids. Yet he finds himself telling his sister-in-law, Nell John, that he is irresistably drawn towards behaviour that will disrupt and then destroy his domestic tranquillity.

Few characters in Miss Crewe's entertaining new book are free from this affliction. Infidelity is rife, not just in the frolicking of the younger generation, but as a potent challenge to 30-year Darby and Joan relationships. The book's milieu is metropolitan and arty, but the message is universal: given a sufficiently attractive offer and decent odds against being caught, most of us will misbehave. There's more to *Mad About Bees* than this, of course. It is well written, carefully observed, and most of the characterisation is pretty convincing. At one point it looks as though we're about to get a happy ending. But then Miss Crewe pulls herself together and sandbags the virtuous Nell.

Sandbags are regulation issue for the Field family in Barbara Gowdy's splenetic second novel, Falling Angels. Pa is an ex-military man, who terrorises his womenfolk with his particular brand of obsession — parade ground discipline. Tolerable only when distracted by his latest floozie, he has long since driven Ma to the bottle, and eventually causes her to take unsteadily to the roof. The girls — Norma, Lou and Sandy — tried to run away to Disneyland when they were little. As they enter the terrible teens, they start to make out with thoroughly unsuitable men — anything to get out of the house, even if it results in unwanted pregnancy. Miss Gowdy provides a fascinating illustration of the Larkin view of the family — as an institution that does only harm to its members. The Fields operate as a family to humour the paterfamilias, as when Pa decides that they must all spend a fortnight incarcerated in the basement to prepare for nuclear war. This is a chillingly effective, ultimately tragic piece of invective, not a pleasant read, but certainly compulsive.

The heroine of Barbara Raskin's new novel, Current Affairs, is more ambivalent towards her family. Fond of her mother, Natalie Karavan's only gripe against her father was his tendency to spoil her sister Shay. *Only gripe?* Given Nat's feelings about Shay, that's enough to gain him automatic entry to the Chamber of Horrors. *Current Affairs* is sibling rivalry gone mad. Set in Washington in 1988, at the height of the Contragate scandal, it's a titillating piece of faction about corruption, private and public, in the Reagan area. Pulitzer prize-winning journalists cavort in a manner which would warm Candida Crewe's heart, while dope dealers, bent cops, and crooked pols vie with each other to see who can behave worst.

This is *Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice* country, 20 years on. Children, and even — horrors! — grandchildren are a complication, the forever young generation of media superstars are still gamely trucking on. Jack Kennedy remains the role model, for both boardroom and bedroom behaviour, and The Doors are still on the turntable.

Some nice one-liners, and yet more painful home truths about The Family. Not in the Gowdy class, though.

Telling it how it is inside

PAPERBACKS

Lisanne Radice

CAST THE FIRST STONE
By Chester Himes
Allison & Busby, £5.99

CURSE THE DARKNESS
By Lesley Grant-Adamson
Faber, £4.99

SCREAMING BONES
By Pat Burden
Headline, £3.50

CHESTER HIMES is best known for his wry and violent depiction of life in the ghetto heartlands of New York, in what he ironically called his "Harlem domestic detective novels", which feature two Harlem policemen, Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson. At one level tragic heroes, they fight for the law against their corrupt fellow citizens only to emerge as cynical and disillusioned as those they hunt.

Himes, once a seven-year inmate of Ohio State Penitentiary, went on to live in Paris, where he achieved instant success as the author of what were seen as serious sociological crime novels. Cast the First Stone however, is not a *roman policier*, but draws on the novelist's prison experience, even so far as to have the hero teach himself to type. As Himes once revealed in an interview: "When I could see the end of my time inside I bought myself a typewriter and taught myself touch typing." Himes thought he could write as well as Dashiell Hammett. "When my stories finally appeared the other convicts thought exactly the same thing."

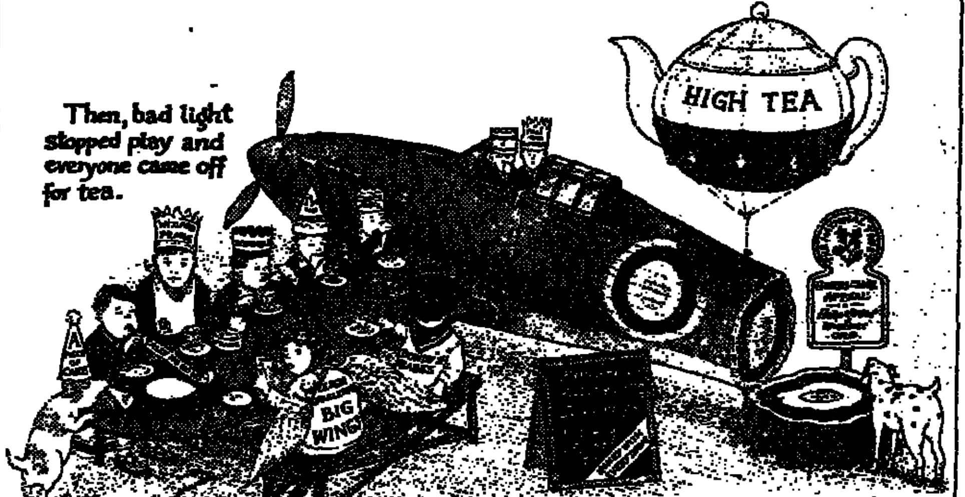
The novel tells the story of James Monroe, acknowledged king of the penitentiary, whose word is law. It also reveals his love for the young convict, Duke Dido. Like Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, Himes presents violence with an unemotional detachment, acting simply as a recording camera eye. But there is more to it than "telling it like it is", for his sensitive portrayal of the grotesque, the absurd, and the tender gives his novels, and this one in particular, a subtlety that is both moving and haunting. The seediness and vicious perversions of prison life, drawn so sensitively in the novel, are illuminated by hope, and finally by love.

Lesley Grant-Adamson's Curse the Darkness is a far cry from Chester Himes's bitter encapsulation of life in a state penitentiary. Firmly set in the fickle world of the British media and publishing scene, it runs two parallel plots. They are linked by the journalist, Rain Morgan, whose friend, a failed television writer, has apparently committed suicide, and by the poseur and literary agent, David Gerrard, who represents another failure, a young novelist, allegedly drowned off the Cornish coast. Though convoluted in places, *Curse the Darkness* nevertheless has a rich quality of text and characterisation that cancels out any of the longueurs of the sub-plots. Previously a feature writer on a national newspaper, Grant-Adamson's portrait of the self-absorbed world of the London literati has a sharp accuracy.

Pat Burden is destined to become a success in America, where the market for "English" or "cosy" crime remains insatiable. In Screaming Bones we have a truly rural tale with all the right bucolic ingredients: quirky villagers, isolated hamlets, 17th century ghosts, pet pigs, Miss Piggy and Barrington-Smythe, sheep rustling and, of course, murder. A splendid concoction for ex-Detective-Chief-Superintendent Bassett to attempt to come to grips with as he ambles about the countryside searching for the truth. Even though he discovers ancient mummies and second world war scandals, he has time to sip the landlord's best bitters in the company of the all-knowing local yokels. Very slow, but endearing.

In the Saturday Review: Simon Raven, Richard Rogers, Shakespeare and antiquity

First Form of the Few



Then, bad light stopped play and everyone came off for tea.

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE BOYS'S OWN BATTLE OF BRITAIN
By, with and from Peter Cross
Pavilion, £7.99

THE lads at Biggin Hill School are in a fix. An upstart institution just across the way, St Hitla's, has been getting very pushy and sweeping up all the European cups. There in its trophy-room you can see the antlers of a reichstag, gained in 1933, the Sudeten Cup, and the Bisch Bosch Gloves (Inter-School Knockout at Brno) both labelled 1938; also, what appears to be a touring side, the Luger Louts, have captured the Rural Violence 5-a-side Annexing Shield for 1937. "When the 1940 season started," records Peter Cross, "there were also comfortable victories over Danes Hill, St Olaf's, Holland Park, King Leopold's" — and, unprecedentedly, Notre Dame. Fortunately a new headmaster, Mr Winston, was appointed and he, along with his senior housemaster, Mr Dowdy, sort out a way to win back the initiative.

The battle begins. Volleys of quite horrendous puns are fired off ("'Radox' the bath salts that give you early warning of approaching aches and planes", "Bat Oil of Britain"). Burst upon burst of comic-strip witticisms flash past — anything from parachute drill in the school chapel to a parade of armoured lawnmowers. In the mêlée all sense of time is lost. (Blue Peter runs a "Spitfires from old socks" appeal, *and* Chris and Val show you how to make a folded paper model of one. St Hitla's are so busy singing "Here ve go, here ve go" that they almost miss their slip-road to Biggin Hill off the M25.)

Nevertheless the whole crazy enterprise struggles through to a triumphant conclusion — not without passing reference to that influential Old Boy, Heath Robinson, W., whose work appears incongruously in the school hall alongside pictures by other names of past and present: a winged war-horse in a field by Stubbs, G., and some rationed Bacon. (But a female incendiarist has set light to Sutherland Major's portrait of the headmaster himself).

I don't know how many of today's young scholars will take in Mr Cross's multifarious jokes before they get to the grand battle on the croquet lawn (Home 18, Visitors 27), but I'm sure they will appreciate "Nunquam in campus de pugno humano erat tantum debit ad multum a tam pauci", which Mr Cross translates as "The lads did magic and extra half hols all round!"

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Ivory towers over cardboard Russian houses

Geoff Brown reviews *Mr and Mrs Bridge, The Russia House, Tilaï, The Field, Pacific House, The Naked Kiss* and *Shock Corridor*

Class act: Paul Newman as the distinguished lawyer in the latest well-bred Merchant/Ivory production, *Mr and Mrs Bridge*

James Ivory can easily be a maddening director. He smothers his films with period finery, elegant nuances; he parades his actors and pursues his plots with the aristocratic mien of a grand seigneur. A film can get to be so well-bred that you feel like kicking its pants; Ivory runs that risk every time he adapts Henry James or E.M. Forster.

On the surface, **Mr and Mrs Bridge** (PG, Curzon Mayfair) should be particularly exasperating. Look at its ingredients: America's stifling upper middle-class during the Thirties and Forties, a filigree plot, stuffed with vignettes. Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman are a class act, certainly, though one to be wary of whenever the couple sniff Art. Yet *Mr and Mrs Bridge* constantly delights, surprises, even touches the heart. Ivory, working alongside his customary producer Ismail Merchant, mingles triumphantly with his material, balancing irony with sympathy, comedy with pathos.

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's script cleverly dovetails incidents from Evan S. Connell's two novels, *Mrs Bridge* (published in 1957) and *Mr Bridge* (published 12 years later). Mrs Bridge — marvellously enacted by Joanne Woodward — gets the lion's share. The epitome of the Country Club wife, she lives entirely in the shadow of her husband, a lawyer of immoveable rectitude. This part is given a distinguished performance by Newman — quietly humorous, poker-faced, his brow furrowed in horror contemplating the follies of others — although he leaves the centre stage graciously to his wife. The three children grow up, rebel, and leave; but Mrs Bridge remains, muttering "My stars!", chattering about nothing, ever lonelier.

Ivory's team dresses the sets with its usual finesse. But beyond the museum collection of vintage radios and hats lie tangible people, brushing shoulders in a cosy world with misfortune, despair and death. There is nothing patronising about Woodward's portrayal of the good, dull, Mrs Bridge; nothing brittle or cold-hearted about Ivory's mosaic of scenes. This must be one of the most pleasurable of all Merchant-Ivory productions.

Look! Michelle Pfeiffer is buying shoes in the Gum department store! And there's Sean Connery on the Moscow Metro! **The Russia House** (12, Plaza) takes a child's delight in its authentic Soviet settings: no other homegrown American feature uses quite so many. Glasnost prompted the venture; glasnost inspired the source material — John Le Carré's thriller about a maverick British publisher lured into the spy game after being handed a manuscript listing Russia's nuclear strength.

Yet the Cold War cannot be unfrozen at the flick of a switch. For all the smart juggling of time and place in Tom Stoppard's script — Lisbon one minute, Moscow and London the next — the fragments congeal into the familiar spy formulae: dangerous meetings at picturesque places; thick layers of subterfuge; the compromising love affair. "You are my only country now," Connery murmurs to Pfeiffer, the manuscript's Russian courier.

The film's surface sophistication blankets the old genre thrills. In the interests of seriousness, director Fred Schepisi plumps for talk, talk, talk. When Connery speaks, there is much to enjoy: the boozy publisher fits him like a glove. But when Michelle Pfeiffer pipes up, essaying an accent that would not have passed muster with Meryl Streep, we smell a box-office requirement rather than a character. Behind them stand Klaus Maria Brandauer and some cardboard Intelligence types, topped off with a scenery-chewing Ken Russell. *Russia House* audiences should follow his lead. Chew the scenery; spit out the rest.

The formidably beautiful **Tilaï** (PG, Renoir, Metro), filmed in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), represents cinema without frills. A man rides back to his village across a parched landscape, a solitary tree on the horizon. Characters speak with simple dignity. Slowly but surely we are pulled into the story about a fateful clash between love and the dictates of "tilaï" (the law).

This is the third feature of Idrissa Ouedraogo, director of *Yaaba*, who was born in Burkina 36 years ago. For the last ten years Ouedraogo has lived in Paris, and he knows how to package a film for Western audiences. Yet the clean, smooth surface and ear-tickling music never obscure the director's grasp of traditional African life and rituals.

The returning villager, Saga, discovers that his fiancée has been forced to marry his father. When their secret meetings are discovered, Saga's brother is selected to kill him. He lets Saga escape, but the power of family bonds means that nobody enjoys a happy ending. In images of fierce simplicity, *Tilaï* re-invents the age-old conflict between love and duty: the perfect enticement for anybody still frightened by the label of "African cinema".

Two weeks after *December Bride*, bogged down in Irish rain and mud, **The Field** (12, Curzon West End) invites us to wade through a similar landscape with Richard Harris, dressed in staff, greatcoat and patriarchal beard. Many might accept the invitation because the director and producer, Jim Sheridan and Noel Pearson, made *My Left Foot*. Their new feature shares its Irish roots: the source is a play by John B. Keane, a man much garlanded on his home turf. Yet the tone is far different. Where Christy Brown's life demonstrated success against the odds, Harris's raging farmer — destroyed in a fight for the emerald field he nurtured almost from bare rocks — strains to achieve the tragic shriek of Irish legends, or even *King Lear*.

Sheridan makes a good enough job of fitting Keane's play for the screen. We are marched along cliffs, drenched and wind-swept; we squelch through mud. But the stage machinery keeps poking through. At peak moments, the dialogue collapses into declamatory clumps. Performers press the right buttons — blind rage from a grizzled Harris, idiot capers from a gap-toothed John Hurt, bland charm from Tom Berenger (the American outsider who ignites the tragedy). Yet they obstinately remain actors acting, flaunting their art in picturesque dress. After *My Left Foot*, *The Field* appears strangely posturing and unedifying.

Among Hollywood's British exiles, John Schlesinger is not at the moment having much luck. He makes films, but they neither light up the box-office, nor display personal commitment. In **Pacific Heights** (15, Odeon Haymarket) he grapples with a thriller about a San Francisco couple whose house and sanity are threatened by a psychopathic tenant. Schlesinger matches his craftsman's skills to a slipshod script. Contrivances rear up like gorgons; while tension is punctured by making the tenant — a sinister Michael Keaton — unhinged from the outset. Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith make a sweet pair of innocents; but the film's melodramatic stampede ruins their status as identity figures for anxious home-owners.

Beyond the museum collection of vintage radios and hats lie tangible people, brushing shoulders in a cosy world with misfortune, despair and death

Finally, to the past. For a week, the Everyman cinema presents a double-bill of Samuel Fuller's **Shock Corridor** and **The Naked Kiss** (15). Who but Fuller would weave a story around prostitution, handicapped children, small-town hypocrisy, and child abuse? That is the world of *The Naked Kiss*. Who but Fuller would send a journalist desperate for the Pulitzer Prize under cover into a mental asylum, while his striptease girlfriend frets for his own sanity? That is *Shock Corridor*.

Fuller's taste remains inimitable and his plots suggest tabloid journalism, but his urgent visual style — much enhanced on this occasion by the black-and-white magic of cameraman Stanley Cortez — turns his best films into apocalyptic yells about the human condition. *The Naked Kiss* is slightly sabotaged by cringing sentiment; but *Shock Corridor* has lost none of its power.

BRIEFING

Charity in translation

Lang: new chief executive of the British Library

A CHARITY performance by a Soviet theatre company will be held at the Queen's Theatre on Sunday to raise money for a memorial fund for Nadia Samoilova, the two-and-a-half year-old Soviet girl who died last week after coming to Britain for a heart operation. Nadia, the grand-daughter of Samoilov, a leading artist with the Mayakovsky Theatre in Moscow, died at Harefield Hospital after the operation. Proceeds from the performance of David Pownall's play, *Master Class*, will help set up a memorial fund for Nadia and pay the hospital bills. The production, by the Vakhtangov Theatre Company, will be in Russian with simultaneous translation from Timothy West.

On the books

BRIAN Lang, the National Trust's 45-year-old director of public affairs, is to be the next chief executive of the British Library, succeeding Kenneth Cooper in June. Before he went to the National Trust three years ago, Lang was the first secretary of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, where he earned respect for his energetic and informed espousal of the fund's role as, in his words, "the heritage fire brigade". Lang will lead the British Library into its new £450 million north London home at St Pancras in 1993.

Direct chance

ASPIRING theatre directors take note: entries are now being invited for the Young Director's Award. The award, which has been running for five years, provides one of the few opportunities for people under 35 to gain valuable experience directing at the Battersea Arts Centre, one of London's leading independent theatres. The 1991 winner, who will be chosen from workshops on May 25-26, will direct a play of his or her choice with a professional cast in November. Applications, which close on April 3, can be obtained from the Battersea Arts Centre (071-223 6557).

Beastly struggle

FEW Broadway shows in recent years face as difficult a struggle for survival as *La Bête*, which marks the American debut of director Richard Jones and designer Richard Hudson, currently represented in London by the musical *Into the Woods*, which closes this week. In its final week of previews, David Hirson's play *La Bête* performed to a 33 per cent capacity, with virtually no advance sales. New plays without stars almost always fail on Broadway; this one is written in rhymed couplets and stars an unknown, Tom McGowan.

Crafty move

SIR Nigel Broackes, silversmith and chairman of the Trafalgar House property and shipping group, is to be the next chairman of the Crafts Council. He succeeds Sir Nevil Macready on March 1 and shortly afterwards will lead the council into its new home in north London where the national crafts centre opens in September.

Last chance . . .

THE full-length ballet *Manon* is one of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's most popular creations for Covent Garden (071-240 1066) and Sylvie Guillem's account of the title role is gripping, as is Laurent Hilaire's portrait of Des Grieux. They rise to an overwhelming emotion of climax in the last act: final performance tomorrow night.

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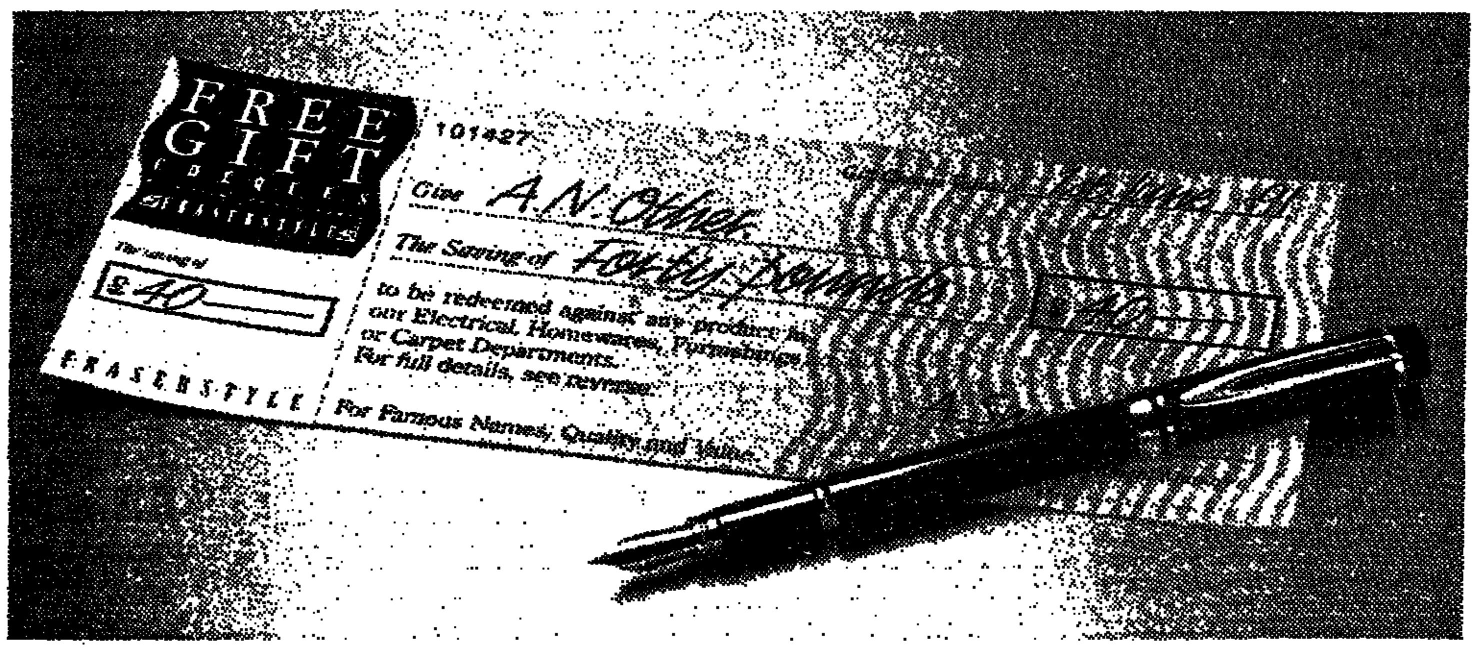

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Gems glitter in new setting

OPERA

The Jewel Box
Royal, Nottingham

DONALD COOPER

In search of an opera: Barry Banks, Quentin Hayes, Mark Curtis and Mary Hegarty as the quartet in *The Jewel Box*

OPERA North's contribution to the Mozart bicentenary is a new opera by him with a libretto by music critic and novelist Paul Griffiths. *The Jewel Box*, given its world premiere in Nottingham's jewel box of a Theatre Royal on Tuesday, is a modern *pasticcio*, and credit for the text must go not only to Griffiths, but to Goldoni, Metastasio, Da Ponte and others, librettists of forgotten operas to which Mozart contributed an extra aria or ensemble. These effectively homeless pieces, together with items (including an overture) from Mozart's unfinished operas and some of his concert pieces, have been gathered up by Griffiths and neatly arranged into two operatic acts of an hour or so each. Some beautiful music has thus been saved from the oblivion of the archive.

Griffiths has exercised a good deal of ingenuity in trying to make these unrelated items cohere into a drama. To think up a proper story in which they all somehow found their natural place would perhaps be beyond the scope of modern patience, though such a task would doubtless have been attempted in Dryden's day. Griffiths is happy to follow the more recent example of Italo Calvino (also his mentor as a novelist), whose treatment of Mozart's unfinished singspiel *Zaide* (K344), staged by Musica Nel Chiostro at the Old Vic in 1982, involved much thinking out loud about operatic conventions and a good deal of post-Modernist teasing of the audience.

So what Griffiths gives us are four characters — the *commedia dell'arte* singers of the opening quartet — in search of an opera (the one they thought they were in has come to an abrupt halt at the end of that ensemble), and a reluctant composer, whom they enjoin to write it for them. They discuss their problem with him in the scraps of spoken dialogue inserted between musical numbers. "We need something in which to exist," they say; and to his objection that they would then have to learn their parts, they reply: "We would *be* them." The audience is in a sense taken inside Mozart's brain as he composes; while other emphases of Griffith's dramaturgy and script point to the high personal price that Mozart may have paid in faithfully serving his genius.

All manner of other interpretations are possible: this is a "meta-opera" if ever there was one (it sometimes evokes the Calvino/Berio experimental music-theatre piece *Un Rè in Ascolto*), taking a constant delight in shifting the boundary between life and art, and brim-full of clever devices. The feeling remains, though, that Griffiths has made things a bit too easy for himself. Any Mozartian item, whatever its verbal meaning, can be fitted without much trouble into the dramatic context when the latter is primarily the making of a Mozartian opera. In any case Griffiths amends the English translations (his own I presume) in which all but three of the items are sung whenever it suits his purposes to do so.

The three arias given in the original Italian are cruelly demanding coloratura display-pieces, which Mozart wrote for his sister-in-law, and lost love, Aloysia Weber. In The *Jewel Box* they seem to symbolise the Composer's noble but tragic destiny as an artist; and Jennifer Rhys-Davies, as the nameless *opera seria* Singer who delivers them, rose magnificently to their challenge, striking a top F in "Vorrei spiegarvi" with dignity.

They comprised the best music of the evening; the arias and ensembles allocated to the *buffa* characters were attractive without being of the Mozartian front rank, but Mary Hegarty as Colombina made her recitative and aria, "Enough. It's over" (the concert piece K295a), particularly touching. Philip Sheffield sang Pedrolino's music from the orchestra pit (the vocally indisposed Barry Banks merely acted the part), and did so very pleasingly. Pamela Helen Stephen was excellent as the Composer — a character straying from *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Two of her four arias (including the opera's epilogue "Now take our thanks", K383) were memorable music; all were eloquently sung. Elgar Howarth was a spirited if not unduly fastidious conductor, and Francisco Negrin's production (designed by Anthony Baker) was lively, colourful, and inventive.

PAUL DRIVER

THEATRE

Long Day's Journey Into Night
Bristol Old Vic

EUGENE O'Neill called it a long day, and did not exaggerate. At breakfast the Tyrone family is in a cheerful mood, if a bit apprehensive about the doctor's appointment that the younger son, Edmund, has arranged for himself. By midnight his "summer cold" has been diagnosed as consumption, his mother is wandering around in a morphine-induced trance, his brother Jamie is half-mad with whisky, and his father is looking as if someone has dropped his house on his head. In other words, it is the kind of day that seems to have lasted a lifetime.

For O'Neill, it more or less did so. After all, Edmund was himself, and the other Tyrones were his immediate family. Within those 16 hours he crammed all that was most traumatic in his life and seminal in his work, creating a pretty awesome challenge for any cast. Not only must they combine intensity and power with human plausibility; if they do not leave the audience feeling it has intruded on someone's dark, intestinal secrets, they have failed.

By that admittedly tough test Howard Davies's revival must so far be rated a half-success. Perhaps it will deepen as it wanders through Britain on its way to a May reopening at the National Theatre. It needs to do so. The play that O'Neill said consisted of "old sorrows written in tears and blood" has a somewhat cerebral feel at present. The family politics are clear enough — but where is the red stuff?

Timothy West and Prunella Scales as the Tyrone parents

Timothy West and Prunella Scales play the Tyrone parents, in some ways very well. He seems to age as she gets artificially younger, his heavy, dejected face sinking into his shoulders as she smiles big, brittle smiles and amiably gurgles out her endless litany of regrets and accusations. Why did he stop her becoming a nun, deny her a proper home, and hire cheap doctors, thus addicting her to drugs? This is the marital equivalent of a war bogged down in the desert: she projecting her own feelings of guilt onto him, he warily absorbing the barrage of blame.

Scales is left in the yellow light, looking like a little old child as she imagines herself back at her convent school, debating her vocation with Mother Elizabeth. It is a marvellous ending, but there is work to be done on what precedes it. She could do more of the nervous things with her fingers that O'Neill's stage directions suggest. At the beginning, she is far from looking like someone in need of a fix, and later on her attempts to snarl and look feral, though brave, seem calculated. A physical attack on Edmund's books, not specified by O'Neill, is a mistake.

Actually, this must be a director's addition, because Sean McGinley's Jamie launches the same tomes through a window pane, again without any stage directions to justify him. It seems that Edmund's bookishness and creative ambition provoke deep jealousies. But McGinley, too, is less impressive when he is acting tormented than when he is showing the vulnerability behind the idler, drunk, whoremonger and cynic. Indeed, what makes this performance unusual is the implication that sensitivity causes Jamie's uglier behaviour. How else can he defend himself against the lunacy and neglect of a mother he adores?

O'Neill went on to write *A Moon for the Misbegotten* because he thought Jamie too unsympathetic in this play. McGinley's surreptitious decency and warmth make any such sequel redundant. In the twisted politics of the Tyrone family, Jamie becomes the black sheep because he cares too much; or so Howard Davies's production ends up suggesting. That is the sort of thoughtful insight it offers. What it needs is more in the way of guts.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JAZZ

Cassandra Wilson
Jazz Café

MAKE a list of the ten most modish names in contemporary jazz, and Cassandra Wilson is certain to appear somewhere near the top. A husky contralto in her mid-thirties, the American singer is suddenly being hailed as the heir to Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan. Her residency in Camden Town will give British audiences a chance to make up their own minds.

As the fashion-spotters will know, Wilson is part of the "M-Base" team, based in Brooklyn under the nominal leadership of the alto saxophonist, Steve Coleman. Like the borough's other radical celebrity, Spike Lee, Coleman and his associates are self-styled urban guerrillas who have combined elements of the avant-garde with "street" slogans and a grandiose mission to redefine black culture.

Burdened by all this ideological baggage, the music itself has sometimes appeared little more than an afterthought, at worst a quest for the most arcane time signature. But it at least offers an alternative to the arid bop routines of the conservatory players.

There is certainly no other singer who sounds quite like Wilson. In common with Betty Carter at her most mannered, she deploys her voice much like a reed instrument, taking outrageous risks with pitch and metre. Those who complain about the odd cracked note from Nina Simone would be apoplectic over Wilson. Exactly how much of the waywardness and blurred diction is intentional, and how much the result of a limited technique, is open to question.

Her trio deserves close attention. Pianist James Weidman and drummer Mark Johnson smoulder and crackle in the background, while the bass of Kevin Bruce Harris prowls along at Wilson's heels. The rare moments when the musicians lock into a reassuringly conventional blues vamp are worth waiting for.

CLIVE DAVIS

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

◆ THE ADVENTURES OF FORD FAIRLANE (18): Infantile sexist thriller set in LA's music industry, a calamitous vehicle for a rude stand-up comic, Andrew Dice Clay. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

COLD DOG SOUP (15): Unfunny crazy comedy about an all-night quest to get rid of a dead dog. Randy Quaid, Frank Whaley, Christine Harnos; director Alan Metter. Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER (15): Aki Kaurismäki's absurdist English comedy about a lonely civil servant (Jean-Pierre Léaud) bent on suicide. Initially droll but disappointing. Electric (071-792 2020) Camden Plaza (071-485 2443).

◆ MEN AT WORK (12): Idiotic low-brow comedy from writer-star-director Emilio Estevez, teamed with brother Charlie Sheen as anarchic garbage collectors. Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

MILLER'S CROSSING (18): Prohibition gang warfare from the brothers Coen: brooding, labyrinthine, over-laden with words and smart artifice. Gabriel Byrne, Albert Finney. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Gate (071-727 4043).

TO SLEEP WITH ANGER (12): Charles Burnett's magical tale of a sinister visitor (Danny Glover) bringing superstition and evil into a troubled Los Angeles family. Metro (071-437 0757).

CURRENT

◆ ARACHNOPHOBIA (PG): Deadly spiders rampage through a cosy Californian community. Enjoyable thriller filled with humour and suspense tricks. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Oscar nominee Gérard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema. Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb. Nominated for 12 Oscars. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): Irish tale of a strong-willed servant girl, bogged down by dour atmosphere, but enlivened by Saskia Reeves. Director, Thaddeus O'Sullivan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

DUCKTALES: THE MOVIE — TREASURE OF THE LOST LAMP (U): Disney cartoon feature with Scrooge McDuck: crammed with gags, but lacking a vital spark. Director Bob Hathcock. Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631) Odeon Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening stranded in a glossy limbo. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ KINDERGARTEN COP (12): Uptight cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger) becomes kindergarten teacher. Bland cute comedy, awkwardly mixed with violent shoot-outs. Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies. Witty dialogue, elegant direction. With Edward Clements, Carolyn Farina. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ MIRACLE MILE (15): Two shy lovers find their romance interrupted by an impending nuclear attack. Bright, stylish drama from promising director Steve De Jarnatt. Anthony Edwards, Mare Winningham. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history. Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress, Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director Mike Nichols. Barbican (071-638 8891) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (15): Oscar nominee Jeremy Irons as the inscrutable Claus von Bulow, tried for the attempted murder of his wife. Brilliant unravelling of a recent enigma; director Barbet Schroeder. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci. With John Malkovich and Debra Winger. Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

SHORT TIME (12): Dabney Coleman as a cop who believes he has a fatal illness. Ignore the sentiment and savour the black comedy. Director Gregg Champion. Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

◆ THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY (PG): Horrendous sequel to *Three Men and a Baby*, piled high with archaic comedy wheezes. Director Emile Ardolino. Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Leicester Square (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ WILD AT HEART (18): David Lynch's rollicking tale of psychotic evil and sexual passion rampaging through America's heartland; the same ingredients as *Blue Velvet*, though the results are far more inconsequential. Cannon Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ ANNA ON ANNA: Siona Linthwaite's affectionate portrait of Anna Wickham, prolific poetess on the Bloomsbury fringe, wryly witty, artfully staged. Offstage Downstairs, 37 Chalk Farm Road NW1 (071-257 9649). Underground: Chalk Farm. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time: 1hr 35mins. Closes March 3.

▨ BETRAYAL: Pinter's backwards look at an adultery: gripping content, but awestruck production. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time, 1hr 30mins. Closes March 2.

☐ CHILDREN OF EDEN: Genial musical jinks round Genesis, supplied by John Caird and Stephen Schwartz. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 50mins.

☐ DECEPTIONS: Anna Carteret and Jamie Glover in revenge drama concerning a psychiatrist and her young client. Fairly thin stuff. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm. Running time, 2hrs.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time, 1hr 45mins.

☐ A FREE COUNTRY: Jews hiding in a farmhouse in Vichy France, disappointingly low-key drama. Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time, 2hrs 45mins. Closes February 27.

▨ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival. Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time, 2hrs 15mins.

▨ IMAGINE DROWNING: Simple comedy, moral confusion and marine baptism mix awkwardly in Terry Johnson's sententious drama. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Hampstead. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time, 2hrs 20mins. Closes March 2.

■ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales, grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns stodgy thereafter. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 50mins. Last week.

☐ JULIAN CLARY IS CAMPING AT THE ALDWYCH: But even those who enjoy campery may quickly find his single-entendre jokes unfunny. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Closes March 9.

☐ THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire and Koshiro Matsumoto IX in old fashioned show packed with a wealth of hit songs. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 50mins. Closes March 30.

☐ THE MERCHANT OF VENICE/VOLPONE: Two tricksy English Shakespeare Company productions. *The Merchant* set in Mussolini's Italy, somewhat redeemed by John Woodvine's foxy Volpone and his powerful Shylock. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. *The Merchant* Sat, 7.30pm, mat today, 2pm, *Volpone* Today, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Closes March 2.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE PILGRIM: New Vic production of Portugal's best-known, epic drama; death rather than dishonour is the theme. Lilian Baylis, Arlington Way, EC1 (071-837 4104). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Running time, 2hrs. Last week.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time, 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre, sometimes deafening, sometimes inaudible rock musical. Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time, 1hr 30mins.

▨ THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE: David Edgar's crisply argued, almost elegiac view of a Communist state collapsing into democracy. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground: Waterloo. Tonight, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.30pm. Running time, 2hrs 30mins.

▨ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production. Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older women. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time, 3hrs. Closes March 2.

■ THE TRACKERS OF OXYRHYNCHUS: Revival of Tony Harrison's brilliant version of a Greek satyr play, intertwining modern and ancient themes of elitist art and cultural poverty. National (Olivier) (as above). Tonight, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm. Running time: 1hr 50mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) ... ▨ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) ... ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) ... ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) ... ☐ Hidden Laughter: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) ... ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) ... ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) ... ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) ... ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) ... ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) ... ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) ... ▨ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) ... ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) ... ▨ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

SAMSON ET DALILA: José Carreras makes a welcome return to the Royal Opera, singing the role of Samson for the first time with the company. Saint-Saëns's opera is produced by Elijah Moshinsky, designed by Sidney Nolan and has choreography by David Bintley. Agnes Baltsa, who has often worked with Carreras, sings Dalila. First night. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

TURN OF THE SCREW: A disappointing revival of Jonathan Miller's production for English National Opera which fails to penetrate the chilling depths of Britten's disturbing score. Eilene Hannan returns as the Governess — a role she originally created in this production. Michael Lloyd conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

PROKOFIEV CENTENARY: Yuri Temirkanov, music director of the Leningrad Philharmonic, conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (with narration by Aled Jones) and Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

HALLE: A rare opportunity to hear Schoenberg's Violin Concerto, tonight performed by Pierre Amoyal along with Brahms's *Tragic Overture*, Debussy's *Symphonic Fragments* and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloe*. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducts (Broadcast live on Radio 3). Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (061-834 1712), 7.30pm.

TOMMY CHASE: The tough guy of the drums, revving up the Blakey-esque hard bop with the latest edition of his band, which plays in Manchester tonight and then London's 100 Club tomorrow. Band on the Wall, Manchester (061-832 6625), 9pm.

CORRESPONDENCES: A collaboration between choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh and composer Kevin Volans, which uses a string quartet, an actor-singer (the excellent Llewellyn Rayappen), a recorded speaking voice and Indian dancing to present the fascinating story of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a self-taught mathematician from Madras. An unlikely subject makes highly-commendable dance theatre. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 8pm.

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS: Jane Glover's "Mozart Explored" series continues with Lilian Kallir performing the composer's Piano Concertos Nos 14, 17 and 20. St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236), 7.30pm.

DAVID DABYDEEN: Guyana-born poet Dabydeen talks to novelist Penelope Lively about his new book, *The Intended* — a semi-autobiographical novel about the emotional and sexual experiences of an immigrant adolescent growing up in an alien city. Poetry Society, Earls Court Square, London SW5 (071-373 7861), 7.30pm.

ARLEEN AUGER: The distinguished American soprano gives a recital of songs inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson — composers vary from Aaron Copland to Geoffrey Wright — accompanied by pianist Roger Vignoles. Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, London SE3 (081-463 0100), 7.30pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

PILCROW
(c) A paragraph mark, orig. obsc.: "The leading article called attention to them with interjections, exclamation marks, apostrophes and all sorts of verbal pilcrows."

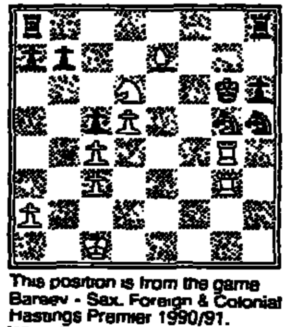
NEROLI
(a) An essential oil distilled from the flowers of the bitter orange, from the name of an Italian *princess* to whom its discovery is attributed: "Musk with one or two drops of oil of Neroli will give a powerful odour."

DIVELLENT
(c) Drawing asunder, from the present participle of the Latin *divellere* to tear asunder: "Unstable equilibrium, with the divellent and quiescent attractions so nearly balanced, that nothing but the inertia of the atoms tends to maintain the existing combination."

RATINE
(c) A rough, open dress-fabric, from the French *ratiner* to frieze, put a nap on: "Mrs Almond's blue ratine looked as if it had just descended upon her and had been made in heaven."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Bareev - Sax, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1990/91. White has a powerful position on the kingside. Can you see how the breakthrough was made? Solution tomorrow.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 ... g5! (1 ...e5 fails to 2 Nxe5!) wins a piece, eg 2 Bxg5 a6, 2 Nxg5 e5 followed by 3 ... a6 or 2 Bc7 Qc8 again followed by 3 ... a6

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st Call 071 240 7200 (24hr / 7 day) 071 379 4444 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 THE TURN OF THE SCREW Tomor 7.30 OEDIPUS REX/BLUEBEARD'S

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066 / 1911 Standby info 836 6903 S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day THE ROYAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 Samson et Dalila THE ROYAL BALLET Tomor 7.30 Manon

THEATRES

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 793 1000/071 379 4444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) Grps 071 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO SEPT
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BLOOD BROTHERS
with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
"ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

ALDWYCH B.O/CC 071 836 6404 Also CC (no bkg fee) 071 836 2428 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 / 379 4444
LTD SEASON FROM 3 APRIL ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY CORIOLANUS & THE WINTER'S TALE "Distinctive, populist and befriending" Ind.

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404 cc 071 793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr cc 836 2428/379 4444 (Bkg Fee)
JULIAN CLARY
IS CAMPING AT THE ALDWYCH
Evg 8 Sats 5.30,8.30 Till March 9

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grps 828 6188 cc 24hr 379 4444/240 7200 071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
SEVENTH HIT YEAR
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK
OAP's £5 on Tues Mats
NOW BOOKING TO 28 SEPT

CAMBRIDGE 071 379 5299 CC 071 379 4444 (24hr no Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977(24hr)/071 793 1000 (B Fee) Grp 071 240 7941 "Go in and Rock" The Times
BEST MUSICAL Olivier Awards 1990
RETURN TO THE
FORBIDDEN PLANET
"The brashest, boldest musical" C Limits
"Breathless and brilliant" D Mir
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 6 & 8.50 All seats £8.50 Fri 6pm only
"Deliriously addictive" D Tel "Awesome" What's On

COMEDY B.O 071 867 1045/1111cc Also CC (no bkg fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977 793 1000
"STUNNING... A POWERFUL EVENING" Mail
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
WARREN MITCHELL CHERIE LUNGHI
The HOMECOMING
by HAROLD PINTER
Directed by Peter Hall
"DISTURBINGLY HILARIOUS" Indep
Eves 8.00, MATS WED 3.00, SAT 5.00
SEASON NOW EXTENDED

DOMINION 071 580 8845 cc 071 580 9562 RED PRICE PREV. TUES FEB 26 OPENS WED FEB 27 AT 7.00PM SUBS EVGS 7.30 MATS THUR & SAT 2.30. Don't Miss The Real Musical
42ND STREET
Returns to the West End For 64 Perfs Book Now

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071-379 4444/240 7200/793 1000 Grps 831 8625 INFO + AVAIL 0839 333870
MISS SAIGON
"MUSICALS COME AND GO THIS ONE WILL STAY" S Tms
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm CHECK DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS. Latecomers not admitted until the interval. A FEW GOOD SEATS STILL AVAIL FOR MIDWEEK MATS APPLY TO BOX OFFICE. NOW BOOKING UNTIL 30 JUNE 1991, FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS (071 836 8108)

DUCHESS 071-836 8243 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000 (no bkg fee) 071-240 7200 (bkg fee) Groups 071-930 6123
Theatre of Comedy Company
HENRY McGEE LESLIE LAWTON & WILLIAM LUCAS in RAY COONEY'S "HILARIOUS" (S Times)
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!
LONDONS LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY
ALL PERFS EXLD SAT EVG 4 tickets for the price of 3 8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Thu Mat 2.30

DUKE OF YORKS BO & cc 836 5122 cc 836 9837 cc 836 3464/379 4444/793 1000
COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988
ELIZABETH ESTENSEN in WILLY RUSSELL'S "HIT"
SHIRLEY VALENTINE
Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5
"The audience roars approval Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail "Unmissable play for years" D.Mir

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
THE REHEARSAL
by JEAN ANOUILH
"A VERY HOT TICKET" T Out
Evgs 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 (24hr) 071 793 1000
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian "MASTERLY" Exp "CHILLING" Ind "Take Tranquillisers" T Out
Eves 8 Mats Tue 3 & Sat 4 "HOORAY FOR HORROR" D Mail
NOW BOOKING TO MAY '91

GLOBE 071-437 3667 cc 071-793 1000/ 071-379 4444/ (no fee)/ 071-240 7200 (bkg fee)
PATRICK MALAHIDE SINEAD CUSACK
SUSAN WOOLDRIDGE
MAP OF THE HEART
by William Nicholson
Directed by Peter Wood
Perfs from 28 February

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 or 24hr Hotline 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) From 20th FEB
DAWN FRENCH IN
SILLY COW
BY BEN ELTON
MON-FRI EVES 8.00 pm. SAT EVE 8.45 pm
MATS WED 3pm SAT 5.30 pm
NOW BOOKING

HER MAJESTY'S Enquiries 0836 430921 071-839 2244 24hr CC 379-4444 (bkg fee) 793-1000 (bkg fee) 497-9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930-6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
DAVE WILLETTS
JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK
Ines Baffioli plays Christine at certain performances
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 28 1991 40-60 RETURNS SOLD EACH PERF: QUEUE DAILY

KINGS HEAD 071-226 1916. 8pm DECEPTIONS with Anna Carteret & Jamie Glover.

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941
RUSS ABBOT'S
PALLADIUM MAD HOUSE
The New All Laughter Spectacular with Bella Emberg, Les Dennis and Company
Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. A HALF TERM TREAT FOR ALL THE FAMILY. WEDS MAT ALL SEATS £5 & £10. Book Early MUST END MARCH 2.

LONDON PALLADIUM B/O & CC 437 7373 The Opera North/RSC Production of
SHOW BOAT
Returns for a limited season from March 15

LONDON PALLADIUM BO 071 437 7373/437 2055 cc 24hr 379 4444 (no bkg-fee) 497 9977 24hr (bkg fee)
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber
Starring JASON DONOVAN
Previews from 1st June Opens 12th June

LYRIC, Shafts Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444 "SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
"A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian
"The joint never stops jumpin'" Time Out
(Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45) APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in MERCHANT OF VENICE by Shakespeare 2pm VOLPONE by Jonson 7.30pm "MESMERISING" Gdn. STUDIO 081 741 8701 THE ROUND TABLE by Christopher Hein 8pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee: 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Ton't Tomor 7.15 THE TRACKERS OF OXYRHYNCHUS Harrison
COTTESLOE
Ton't 7.30 THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE Edgar Tomor 7.30 WHITE CHAMELEON Hampton

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 404 4079 Grps 405 1567 (All above bkg fee) [illegible] All Hrs 379 4444 Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches (Grp bkg) 930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 NOW BOOKING THRU OCT
SEATS NOW AVAIL

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc24hrs (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071-930 6123 Grps 071-494 1671
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
THE MUSICAL SENSATION
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval
NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91 APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS & CANCELLATIONS

PHOENIX BO 071 867 1044 cc (no bkg fee) 867 1111/379 4444 cc (bkg fee) 071 793 1000/071 497 9977 GRPS 240 7941
BEST MUSICAL 1990 EVENING STD AWARDS
JULIA McKENZIE IMELDA STAUNTON PATSY ROWLANDS CLIVE CARTER & NICHOLAS PARSONS in The Sondheim/Lapine Musical
INTO THE WOODS
Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30
MUST END SATURDAY

PICCADILLY 071 867 1118 cc no bkg fee: 867 1111/071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (24hrs)/bkg fee: 071 497 9977 (24hrs)
RICHARD O'BRIEN'S "MAD BAD FUN MUSICAL" D Mir
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Directed by Robin Lefevre
"RAMPANT WITH ACTIVITY" S.Express
Mon-Thur 8 Fri & Sat 7 & 9.15 90 minute show

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071-839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 071 379 9463 (no bkg fee)
PETER HALL COMPANY
TWELFTH NIGHT
Prevs 26/27 Feb Opens 28 Feb at 7 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
12 WEEKS ONLY
NO GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 24hr 379 6131 (bkg fee) 793 1000 Grps 930 6123
ASPECTS OF LOVE
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel
Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
Queue daily for returns. Strictly no admittance for latecomers
NOW BOOKING TO OCTOBER '91 100 SEATS AVAIL FOR WED MAT ON THE DAY AT THE B. OFFICE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 Prowse 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 240 7941/930 6123 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
CHILDREN OF EDEN
"EXPLODES ONTO THE STAGE... A RIOT OF COLOUR, ENERGY AND PURE JOY" Today by John Caird Stephen Schwartz

QUEENS Shaftesbury Ave 071 734 1166 cc 071 793 1000 071 497 9977 071 379 4444 (bkg fee)
VANESSA REDGRAVE LYNN REDGRAVE
JEMMA REDGRAVE and STUART WILSON
THREE SISTERS
Directed by ROBERT STURUA
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
LAST TWO WEEKS

QUEENS 071-734 1166 cc 071 379 4444 (No bkg fee) 071-497 9977/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 071-930 6123
STEFANIE POWERS JOHN BARROWMAN & NICKY HENSON
MATADOR
A New Musical
Directed by Elijah Moshinsky
Previews from 2nd April

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
STRATFORD UPON AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon-Sat 9am-8pm)
WINTER VISITORS' SEASON
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Today 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30
THE SWAN: THE COUNTRY WIFE Ton't 7.30
For Free leaflet phone 0789 205301

ROYALTY Portugal St, Kingsway, WC2 CC 071-497 9977 24hrs No Bkg Fee
GARRISON KEILLOR
2 PERFORMANCES ONLY
Sat 9th March 7.45pm & 11pm

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916
SUSAN HAMPSHIRE KOSHIRO MATSUMOTO IX in Rodgers & Hammerstein's
THE KING AND I
"MAGIC" D. Mail "SUMPTUOUS" Times "ELEGANT" D.Exp
Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 2.30 GROUP SALES 071 930 6123 cc 071 793 1000/379 4444 6 WEEKS ONLY! Until 30 Mar

SHAFTESBURY 071-379 5399 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000(no bkg fee) 071-497 9977(Bkg Fee) Groups 071-930 6123
Theatre of Comedy Company
DONALD SINDEN MICHAEL WILLIAMS in RAY COONEY'S "HUGELY FUNNY" (D.Tel)
OUT OF ORDER
"A TRIUMPH" (F Times)
ALL PERFS EXCL SAT EVG: 4 tickets for the price of 3. 8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Wed mat 2.30

SHAFTESBURY cc 071-379 5399 cc (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444 /497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123
PETER O'TOOLE
in "THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR" E. Std
JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL
by Keith Waterhouse
directed by Ned Sherrin
Eves 8.00pm, Sat 5 & 8.30pm
FROM 29 MAR LIMITED SEASON 10 WEEKS ONLY!

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443. Special CC No 379 4444 Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45 Sat 5.0 and 8.0
39TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000
DAVE ALLEN
"A phenomenon devoutly to be cherished" S.Express
Season extended to 4 May Monday - Saturday 8pm

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30
HANNAH GORDON PETER BARKWORTH KEVIN McNALLY in
HIDDEN LAUGHTER
"SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph "SUPERBLY WRITTEN" STimes

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun "SHEER UNADULTERATED FUN... I LOVE THIS SHOW" Sun Exp. "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30. ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR NOW BOOKING TO SEPTEMBER 28

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S ACHINGLY FUNNY This
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR
"Leaves the clever work with laughter and admiration" D Tel
"I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today
Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30

WYNDHAMS 071 867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee)
SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS
JOSEPH MAHER in
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
by JOE ORTON
"GLORIOUSLY FUNNY" D Tel
Eves 8.00 Fri & Sats 5.00 & 8.40

ART GALLERIES

THE MEDICI GALLERIES, 7 Grafton Street, London W1. 071-629 5675 Exhibition of Paintings by WILLIAM BURNS February 22nd to March 7th. Monday to Friday 9-5.30.

WILDENSTEIN, 147 New Bond Street, W1. "Venus & Cupid" Exhibition of paintings & drawings from 16th-19th Century, incl. works by Boucher, Fragonard, Goya, etc. Until 28 Mar Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Tel: 071 629 0602.

NEW GRAFTON GALLERY
49 Church Road,
Barnes SW13
081-748 8850.
JOANNA CARRINGTON & CHRISTOPHER MASON
Until March 9th

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett, Natasha Richardson, Helen Mirren in THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18) Progs at 2.00 (not Sun) 4.10, 6.20, 8.40 Last Week From Fri MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG)

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Avenue W1 071 439 4805. Derek Jacobi in THE FOOL (U) Progs at 2.15, 5.15 & 8.15. "Christine Edzard's magnificent film" Gdn Last Week. From Fri THE FIELD (12)

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 DECEMBER BRIDE (PG) Progs at 2.20 (not Sun) 4.25 6.35 8.40

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BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a discussion on staying with partners in sickness and in health 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin Playdays
10.30 Dish of the Day. Culinary advice from Rosemary Moon 10.40 Brainwave. Quiz show
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today with Debi Jones and Adrian Mills
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club 12.20 Scene Today. Live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold. Quiz show with Henry Kelly
2.15 Film: Staying Together (1983). Television film, based on the experiences of its writer and producer, Chris Beaumont, about 18-year-old Jimmy Bartlett (Lee Montgomery), who is left to look after his young brother and sisters after the death of his widowed mother. The treatment is sentimental and optimistic: not for nothing was the film originally called *Happy Endings*. Directed by Jerry Thorpe. (Ceefax)
3.50 Dooby Duck's Truck 3.55 Gordon the Gopher. Phillip Schofield discovers Gordon's *fitness secrets as he gets fit the Gopher* way 4.10 Jackanory. Victoria Wood with part four of Roald Dahl's classic story *Matilda* 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon adventures of a bionic baby (r) 4.30 Dizzy Heights. Comedian Alan Heap does his best to relate to customers in the puppet comedy set in a seaside hotel.
4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter. Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan invite viewers to choose names for Bonnie the golden labrador's five-week-old puppies. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News *Magazines. Northern Ireland:* Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Mark Goodier. (Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 EastEnders. *It is the day of* Phil's court case and *the* Mitchells are confident they will make the correct impression on the magistrate. (Ceefax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World. Judith Hann predicts a chocoholic's dream — unlimited cream buns and no weight gain. Peter Macann visits Littlehampton, where the council has found a novel way of cleansing the beach of toxic waste. Plus an electronic box that makes it easier to get help during a car breakdown

The terrors of St Swithins: Layton, Davies, Nedwell (8.30pm)

8.30 Doctor at the Top: Sins of the Father. Whatever became of those young student doctors Duncan Waring, Paul Collier and Dick Stuart-Clark, the terrors of St Swithins in the Swinging Sixties? This new comedy series catches up with the varied fortunes of the three medical friends, still played by Robin Nedwell, George Layton and Geoffrey Davies. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Spotlight
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.35 Open All Hours. Gentle Roy Clarke comedy starring Ronnie Barker as the miserly, stuttering, lusting northern shopkeeper, with David Jason as his snivelling nephew (r). Northern Ireland: The Corner House
10.05 Question Time. Peter Sissons chairs the live debate from London's Barbican. Among the guests are Dr Garret Fitzgerald and MPs Kenneth Baker and John Prescott
11.05 Heartbeat. Feature-length pilot of a new American drama series set in a Los Angeles medical clinic founded by two women doctors (Kate Mulgrew and Laura Johnson) and dedicated to the needs of female patients. An ambitious executive (Joan Chen from *Twin Peaks*) is unwillingly confined to bed to avoid the premature birth of her child. A cancer patient comes to terms with her illness and a childless couple seek help from a fertility specialist
12.40am Weather. Wales: International Squash 1.00 News and weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: The Physics *of Matter* — How Low Can You Go? Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two. Schools' half-term repeats
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 Bowls. From The Guild Hall, Preston. Dougie Donnelly presents the day's matches that will complete the line-up for the singles semi-finals in the Midland Bank world indoor championships
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Bowls. Further coverage from the Guild Hall, Preston, as the pairs tournament moves into its semi-final stages
5.30 Holiday 91. A special edition devoted to Greece (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 Film: Tarzan and the Jungle Boy (1968). Former American athlete Mike Henry dons the loincloth as the branch-swinging hero. He is persuaded by a photo-journalist to help her find a geologist's son who has been lost for six years and becomes involved with feuding tribesmen. With Rafer Johnson and Alizia Gur. Standard fare, directed by Robert Gordon 7.25 Animation Now. *The Nose* (r)
7.35 First Sight: A Network Under Scrutiny. Andrew Harvey reports on how British Rail's Network SouthEast and InterCity services are coping with the task of transporting half a million commuters every day, and looks at how the service shapes up against rail networks in The Netherlands. Northern Ireland: The Brittas Empire; England: Midlands — The Midlands Report; Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester: Close Up North; Southampton: Southern Eye; Plymouth: Western Approach; Bristol: Current Account
8.05 Bleak House. The final episode of Arthur Hopcraft's masterly dramatisation of Charles Dickens's classic novel, with Denholm Elliott in fine form as John Jarndyce. (r). (Ceefax)
9.00 Red Dwarf IV: DNA. Inventive space spoof by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor, now in its fourth series and showing no sign of flagging. The crew discovers a machine that can transform living things by rewriting their DNA. The dwarfers are unsure whether this is a good or bad thing, until Lister's curry assumes near-human form. (Ceefax)
9.30 40 Minutes: A Cruel Ritual.
● *CHOICE: Six years ago revelations about female circumcision in* a *40 Minutes* film by Louise Panton led to an all-party motion in the House of Commons and legislation banning the practice. In this new film Panton returns to the subject, reporting that despite the ban young girls are still being circumcised and suggesting that the "cruel ritual" may even be on the increase. Filmed in silhouette for fear of being ostracised by their communities, women describe how at the ages of seven or eight they went through the terrible pain of being circumcised without an anaesthetic and how the operation has affected their lives. Female circumcision is a custom imported from east Africa, where it is deeply embedded in the culture. A group of Somali women in Britain say they will continue to defy the law. But there are signs that younger members of the British African community are prepared to rebel. (Ceefax)
10.10 Bicycle: The Ultimate
● CHOICE: A six-part celebration of 150 years of pedal power starts not at the beginning (the invention of the machine is dealt with next week) but with the Tour de France. Well can it be regarded as the ultimate use of two wheels, as 200 riders spend three weeks on what most of us would regard as an orgy of self-inflicted suffering. David Taylor's film follows Greg LeMond, the first American winner of the event, as he seeks a third title. His demand to be paid the same fees as other American athletes has pushed up rewards for Tour de France competitors by 1,000 per cent. LeMond has concluded a sponsorship deal worth $3.5million over three years. Rivalry between LeMond and the former champion, Eddy Merckx, extends beyond the track. Merckx says LeMond is not a worthy world champion. LeMond retorts that Merckx is only jealous because LeMond bikes are eating into sales of Merckx bikes. (Ceefax)

Making the ultimate use of two wheels: Greg LeMond (10.10pm)

10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine
11:55 Weather
12.00 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University *programmes. Ends at 12.10am*

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Gulf Report 9.40 Thames News and weather
9.45 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton hosts another edition of the travelling discussion show
10.30 This Morning with Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.05 The Riddlers. For the very young 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond takes a look behind the scenes of ITV's most popular programmes and Barry Took selects his favourite golden oldies 2.50 Give Us A Clue. Celebrity charades
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama set in a large city hospital
3.55 Owl TV. Michaela Strachan finds out what needs to be done to save the British otter 4.20 Cartoon 4.30 Spatz. Children's drama series set in a fast food restaurant
5.00 Home and Away (r)
5.30 News with Carol Barnes (Oracle)
5.55 Thames Help with news of King's Cross's Calthorpe Project
6.00 Blockbusters
6.30 Thames News presented by Andrew Gardner and Liz Pike
7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle)
7.30 Jimmy's. Another fly-on-the-wall report from St James's Hospital in Leeds
8.00 Gulf Report followed by The Bill: Too Many Chiefs. Inspector Monroe (Colin Tarrant) launches an enquiry into a bail home after the death of one of its young occupants. (Oracle)
8.30 This Week: The Price of Terror. A documentary investigation into the financial costs of protecting the public and VIPs from acts of outrage. (Oracle)

Case of the vanishing lady: Hardwicke and Brett (9.00pm)

9.00 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes.
● CHOICE: The stories may be getting thinner as Granada works through the Conan Doyle canon, but the treatment is as surefooted as ever. In his seventh year as the best Holmes television has yet given us, *Jeremy Brett* has become the part *just* as *Joan Hickson* became Miss Marple. Accept no substitutes. Apart from a face which is marvellously expressive, even when it is not obviously expressing anything, the essence of Brett's performance is that it resists the temptation to send the character up. Edward Hardwicke's Watson is in similar vein. Tonight's case is one of the less gripping but it has a solid script by the reliable T. R. Bowen, delectable Lakeland scenery and a top-notch supporting cast headed by Cheryl Campbell as the eccentric Lady Frances, whose vanishing acts form the basis of the puzzle (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather 10.35 Thames News and weather
10.45 The City Programme. Pricing the generators — will the yield have the power to attract investors? And "intellectual property" — can the City put a price on creativity?
11.15 01. Includes Joss Ackland's review of *The Russia House*, starring Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer, and Ben Elton and Dawn French, author and star of *Silly Cow*, discussing the play
11.45 Gulf Report followed by Prisoner: Cell Block H. Female villains do porridge in this Australian drama series
12.40am Contacts. Another opportunity for people with similar interests and outlooks to get together via television's version of the personal column
1.10 Judith Krantz's I'll Take Manhattan. Part two of the predictable American mini-series about the battle for a publishing empire (r)
3.00 Hardball. Maverick cops Charlie and Raz investigate a devil-worshipping cult.
4.00 Three's Company. American sitcom
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 Videofashion. Clothes and style magazine (r)
5.30 ITN *Morning* News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 The Parliament Programme introduced by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 The Ancient Art of Cookery. *The Tudor Menu at Cotehele House.* Sir Roy Strong takes us through six centuries of cooking, while expert Sara Paston-Williams recreates a complete menu of Tudor times that modern cooks will find simple to follow. In this programme they visit 15th century Cotehele House, near Plymouth, where the kitchen is preserved in near-perfect condition (r)
2.30 Cutting Edge: Winning Fortunes. Repeat of Monday's documentary about football pools winners and how well they manage their suddenly-acquired fortunes (r)
3.30 Land Of Hope. Episode seven of the Australian series chronicling the lives of one Irish-Australian working-class family from the late 1800s to the 1970s (r)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley
5.00 The Adventures of TinTin. Episode 12 of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's guests are wives and secretaries verbally wrestling over their rights to the husband
6.00 Kate & Allie. *Too Late The Rebel.* American comedy with two divorced mothers who share a Greenwich Village apartment (r)
6.30 Desmond's. Razor-sharp wit and cutting humour from the black barber's shop in southeast London (r) (Teletext)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Spaceship Earth: The New Global Geography. The first in a new series of ten programmes using the latest satellite technology to present a global geography of our planet. Remarkable satellite images, together with original film shot worldwide, are used to examine the interrelation of the elements, the landscape and, in this first programme, the people who inhabit "spaceship Earth". Narrated by Ian Holm

Strained relationship: Diana Quick and Nigel Terry (8.30pm)

8.30 The Orchid House: The Return of the Master
● CHOICE: Horace Ove directs a handsome rendering of Phyllis Shand Allfrey's autobiographical novel about a troubled white family in the Caribbean between the two world wars. Diana Quick and Nigel Terry play the parents of three daughters, first seen as small girls as their father returns from the western front in 1918. The strained relationship between mother and father and his growing addiction to opium are the main elements in a leisurely first episode, which mainly serves to establish character and mood and sprinkle clues to the future. It also introduces the sumptuous scenery of Dominica, which seems permanently drenched in an orange sun. Frances Barber, Kate Buffery and Elizabeth Hurley join the cast next week as the daughters, now grown up, whose return to the island after a long period away triggers a series of startling developments. (Teletext)
9.45 Affairs Of The Heart: The Heart Has Reasons. The first of a six-part series on how the health of the heart is central to our spiritual and physical wellbeing. The series begins with Mark Kidel's film that traces the links between the heart as a symbol in our culture and the organ which can suffer failure or an attack. (Teletext)
10.45 True Stories: H2 Worker. Powerful documentary exposing the exploitation of itinerant Jamaican workers by the Florida sugar cane industry. For six months of the year, more than 10,000 men from Jamaica and other Caribbean islands undertake the brutal work of cutting sugar cane by hand, a job so physically hard and poorly paid that Americans refuse to do it. The film focuses on the lives of the workers and was shot secretly in in Florida
11.55 A Week In Politics. Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley introduce a review of the week's events in the Commons, Lords and European parliament. Includes *Channel 4 News — Midnight Special.* Ends at 2.00am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.50 Relationships 11.20-11.50 Wideangle 12.50am Donahue 1.50 Santa Barbara 2.45 Film: Thrill of a Romance 4.40 Fifty Years On 5.00-5.30 Jack Thompson Down Under

BORDER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Lookaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.45 Hooperman 12.15am Matlock 1.10 Film: Neither the Sea Nor the Sand 2.55 Cinemattractions 3.25 Night Beat 4.25 Ski with Klammer 4.40 Short Story Theatre 5.05-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.45 Central Lobby 11.15 1st Night 11.50 Hooperman 12.20am Jake and the Fatman 1.15 Video View 1.45 The New Avengers 2.45 Ski with Klammer 3.15 America's Top Ten 3.45 Bedrock 4.45-5.30 Jobs

GRANADA

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and *Away 6.30-7.00* Granada Tonight 10.45 What's New 11.25 Families 12.15am Matlock 1.10 Film: Neither the Sea Nor the Sand 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Night Beat 4.25 Ski with Klammer 4.40 Short Story Theatre 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 The West This Week 11.30 HTV Weekend Outlook 11.50 Film: The Bitch 1.35am The Highwayman 2.35 Quiz Night 3.05 Video View 3.35 Bedrock 4.35 The Silk Road 5.25-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales & Westminster 10.45 Wales this Week 11.15-11.45 Coming of Age

TSW

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.3-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Tongue & Groove 11.15 Politics South West 11.45 Film: How Awful About Allan 1.10am Film: Neither the Sea Nor the Sand 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Night Beat 4.25 Ski with Klammer 4.40 Short Story Theatre 5.00-5.30 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Moneywise 11.15 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.15am Film: Beware of Pity 2.10 The World of Golf 2.40 Film: West 11 4.20 Beyond 2000 5.00-5.30 Coast to Coast

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Thank You and Good Night 11.15 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.15am Matlock 1.10 Film: Neither the Sea Nor the Sand 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Night Beat 4.25 Ski with Klammer 4.40 Short Story Theatre 5.05-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.50 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.20 Police Six 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Counterpoint 10.50 Money Talks 11.20 Ski Tips 11.50 Pop Profile 12.15am Matlock 1.10 Film: Neither the Sea Nor the Sand 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Night Beat 4.25 Ski with Klammer 4.40-5.00 Short Story Theatre

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 6.00pm Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Calendar Commentary 11.15 Time Please! 11.50 Film: Bang the Drum Slowly 1.35am Night Heat 2.35 Top Ten 3.05 CinemAttractions 3.35 Music Box 4.35-5.30 Jobs

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Yagolion 12.00 Sbectel 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: Coney Island 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Tonight with Jonathan Ross 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Heno 6.40 Pobol y Cwm 7.00 Caniod 7.30 Bwrw Mlaen 8.00 The Cosby Show 8.30 Newyddion 9.00 Chwilio am y Nefoedd 9.40 Orchestra! 10.10 Eurocops 11.10 Hot Rod Boogie 11.40 Short and Curlies 11.55 A Week in Politics 12.25 C4 News Midnight Special 2.00 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 12.15pm Dail Report 12.30 Look Here 1.00 News 1.40 Victorian Kitchen Garden 2.10 Carson's Law 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Red and Blue 5.30 A Country Practice 6.01 Six One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 1992 The European Challenge 8.05 Father Dowling 9.00 News

NETWORK 2

Starts: 3.40pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Head of the Class 8.00 News; Freeze Frame 8.30 Marketplace 9.00 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd 9.30 News; Falcon Crest 10.25 Nighthawks 11.05 News 11.25 Dail Report

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.50 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Here's Lucy 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 The Simpsons 8.30 Wings 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Night Court 11.00 The Outer Limits 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
5.30am Newswatch 6.00 Sky News Sunrise 9.00 Daytime 9.30 Nightline 10.00 Daytime 11.00 International Business Report 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.30 Parliament Live 4.00 International Business Report 4.30 Newsline 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Now, Sir Robin 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC News 12.30am CBS News 1.30 ABC News 2.30 NBC News 3.30 CBS News 4.30 European Business Today

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1974): The team's irreverent reinterpretation of King Arthur and the knights of the round table
12.00 Buffalo Bill (1943): Lively biography of Buffalo Bill, the legendary western frontiersman who became a showman. Starring Joel McCrea
2.00pm Looking for Miracles (1986): Drama, set in the Thirties, about a boy who bluffs his way into a job as a summer camp counsellor, to pay for his college tuition. Starring Greg Spottiswood
4.00 Yogi's Great Escape: Cartoon
6.00 The Navigator (1988): The residents of a 14th century Cumbrian mining village escape the Black Plague and arrive in modern-day New Zealand
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Billy the Kid (1989): Val Kilmer plays the infamous youthful gunslinger
9.40 Projector
10.00 Howling IV — The Original Nightmare (1988) Plagued by terrifying visions, a novelist retreats to the countryside, only to be confronted by werewolves. Starring Romy Windsor
11.30 The Vineyard (1989): A scientist lures young women to his island retreat in order to maintain the supply of human blood he needs to remain immortal. Starring James Hong
1.05am Caboblanco (1980): Following the second world war, Giff Hoyt (Charles Bronson) starts a new life in Peru, where he becomes involved with a French woman's dangerous search for her husband
2.40 Action Jackson (1988): A disgraced cop goes on the trail of the crook who set him up. Starring Carl Weathers
4.15 The Final Programme (1973): As the end of the world approaches, a group of scientists attempts to create a new race of men. Starring Jon Finch. Ends at 5.45

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 DJ Kat 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 Stuttgart Classic Tennis 10.00 Bobsleigh World Championships 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Ford Ski Report 12.00 Synchronised Swimming 12.30pm Stuttgart Classic Tennis 5.30 Equestrianism 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Stuttgart Classic Tennis 9.00 Mobil One Motorsport News 9.30 Football 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Biathlon World Championships 12.30am Big Wheels

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Athletics 8.00 Moto News 8.30 US Pro Boxing 10.00 Stop-Review '90 European Truck Racing Championships 11.00 World Snooker Classics 1.00pm Tenpin Bowling 2.15 Spain Spain Sport 2.30 Hippodrome French Racing 3.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 5.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling The Main Event 6.00 ATP US Pro Indoor Champs: Men 8.00 Citroen Ski Europe 9.00 Argentina Football 1991 11.00 US PGA Shearson Hutton Open

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Slim Cooking 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Style File 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 2.35 The Best of Europe 3.05 Remington Steele 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 Mary 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
2.00pm Cash on Demand (1963, b/w). Drama about a bank manager (Peter Cushing), whose wife and son are taken hostage by a would-be robber
3.30 The Movie Show
4.00 Dixie (1943). Biopic of the 19th century composer who composed "Dixie", adopted as the unofficial anthem of the American South. Starring Bing Crosby
6.00 The Secret of My Success (1987): Sharp-witted comedy in which Michael J. Fox rises up the corporate ladder in record time
8.00 The Last Emperor (1987) Spectacular epic tracing the life of Pu Yi, China's last emperor. Starring John Lone
10.45 The Rachel Papers (1989). A young man reminisces about his former lovers
12.20am Gator Bait II (1988). When a group of thugs gatecrash a wedding reception, a disastrous chain of events is set off
2.00 Hanna's War (1988). The true story of Hanna Senesh (Ellen Burstyn), a Palestinian resistance fighter. Ends at 4.30

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm Racing Today 2.00 FA Cup Football 4.00 Fishing the West 4.30 GW Talks To 5.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 6.00 The IBM ATP Tennis Magazine 7.00 This is the Sports Channel 8.00 Basketball Kingston in Europe 10.00 On Wheels 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 Basketball Kingston in Europe

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Handel (Concerto a due cori No 3 in F: English Concert under Pinnock). Arne (Trio Sonata No 2 in G: London Baroque)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Dvořák (Slavonic Rhapsody in A flat, Op 45 No 3: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi); Krommer (Octet, Partita in B flat, Op 67: Nash Ensemble); Britten (Four Sea Interludes: London Symphony Orchestra under Steuart Bedford)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Gluck — Divertissement. Armide, Act IV, excerpts from Orphée et Euridice, Iphigénie en Tauride and Don Juan. C.P.E. Bach Chamber Orchestra under Haenchen; Monteverdi Choir, with Thomas Allen, baritone, Diana Montague, mezzo, Lyon Opera Orchestra under John Eliot Gardiner, English Baroque Soloists under Gardiner, with Stephen Roberts, baritone, Keith Lewis, tenor, Sally Burgess and Marie Slorach, sopranos
9.35 Un beau matin à Paris: In the company of Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Juliette Gréco and George Brassens. Bach (French Suite in C minor, BWV 813: Huguette Dreyfus, harpsichord); Milhaud (Ballet, Le Boeuf sur le toit: French National Orchestra under Leonard Bernstein); Telemann (Quartet in E minor, No 12: Parisor Quartett). Varèse (Offrandes. Ensemble Intercontemporain under Boulez, with Rachel Yakar, soprano); Chopin (Three Waltzes, Op 34: Jean-Philippe Collard, piano)
11.10 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Louis Frémaux, led by Carl Darby, with Wolfgang Manz, piano, performs Wagner (Overture, Tannhauser); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Op 73, Emperor); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor, Op 74, Pathétique), incl 12.05pm Interval Reading
1.00pm News
1.05 Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. The pianist Christian Blackshaw plays Mozart (Sonata in D, K 576; Rondo in A minor, K 511); Franck (Prelude, Choral and Fugue, M 21)
2.00 Susanna: The Chamber Chorus of the University of California; Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra under Nicholas McGegan perform Handel's English oratorio. With Lorraine Hunt, soprano, as Susanna, Drew Minter, counter-tenor, as her husband Joacim, and Jill Feldman, soprano, as Daniel. 3.20 Interval. 3.25 Part 2. 4.25 Interval. 4.30 Part 3
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure, with Peter Paul Nash
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: Michael Hall talks to the Russian-born violinist Nathan Milstein
7.30 Hallé Orchestra: Live from the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Stanislav Skrowaczewski conducts Brahms (Tragic Overture); Schoenberg (Violin Concerto. Pierre Amoyal). 8.15 The History of the Free Trade Hall. The origins of this famous Manchester building are explored by Stanley Williamson. 8.30 Debussy (Symphonic Fragments from Le Martyre de St Sebastien); Ravel (Daphnis et Chloe, Suite No 2)
9.20 Composed in 1803: The pianist Philip Fowke plays Pinto (Sonata in C minor); Beethoven (Sonata in C, Op 53, Waldstein) (r)
10.05 Music in Our Time: Wales at Home and Away. BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Grant Llewellyn and Antoni Wit, with Jane Manning, soprano, John Hall, baritone, Florian Kitt, cello, performs Rhian Samuel (Before Dawn — first UK performance); Nigel Osborne (Konzerstuck for cello and orchestra); Jerold James Gordon (Symphony No 3, Neue Psalmen — first UK performance)
11.00 The Honky Tonk Man: In the last in the series, Francis Wilford-Smith examines the work of the blues pianist Charlie Spand (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am *Composers of the Week.* Liszt (Der du von der Himmel bist — two versions; Symphonic poem, Hamlet; Die Drei Zigeuner; Piano Concerto No 2) (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

● FM: Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war. The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55, 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Face the Facts (r)
9.30 Never the Same Again: Critical periods in family life
10.00 News; The Natural History Programme: Fergus Keeling and Jessica Holm explore the rainforest — in Edinburgh
10.45 An Act of Worship
11.00 News; Citizens
11.25 God and Caesar: Mike Wooldridge talks to Sir Garfield Todd, the former prime minister of southern Rhodesia, about the beliefs which *have underpinned* his political career
11.50 First Person: Robert Glasgow recalls working for newspapers in Chicago, New York and Baltimore
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Thank You, Richard Murdoch: Bob Monkhouse recalls the entertainer, who died last year (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Mothers are the subject of discussion; there is an interview with Barbara Young, the first woman chief executive of the RSPB; and Emily Dickinson's poems have been put to music by the singer Arleen Auger
3.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (FM only)
3.00 News; Breaking Up! (LW only): In Peter Roberts's farce, it is the last chaotic day of term at a former grammar school planning to go independent
4.00 News
4.05 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde examines the importance of good punctuation and Michael Ignatieff talks about his favourite reading
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of *Claire Tomalin's The Winter Wife* at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton and Opera North's *The Jewel Box*; and Geoffrey Parkinson talks about his play *The Newsvendor* which goes out next Tuesday on Radio 3
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 And Now, in Colour . . . (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Soundtrack: Comeovers, Stopovers and Manx Crabs.
● CHOICE: Physiologically tail-less, the Manx cat is behaving like one with two tails these days. Its native island has become a tax haven, the "spuds and herrings" trade has gone and the new office blocks are filled with fax machines and computers. In a line, the cat has gone commercial and is up to its neck in cream. Reporter Gill Burchall builds up a sound montage of smug satisfaction (the money people) and nostalgic regret (the culture custodians). The clouds she sees scudding across the Isle of Man horizon are not all of them fleecy or silver-lined
8.00 Analysis: Centre Point. David Walker asks what would happen to schools, the police and other services if they were centralised even further by the government
8.45 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled listeners
9.15 Kaleidoscope (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight, with Nigel Cassidy 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Alexander MacLeod
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Carol, by Patricia Highsmith (11 of 12)
11.00 Fear on 4: Invitation to the Vaults. Basil Copper's tale of revenge against a crooked literary agent brings the series to a close
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Mike Read 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies Winter Warmers 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.00 Top of the Pops (with BBC1) 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 Classic Documentary: Guitar Greats — Pete Townshend (r) 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Debbie Greenwood 4.00 Sheridan Morley 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 A Wealth of Wisdom. Norman Wisdom recalls highlights from his eventful life (r) 10.00 Chris Stuart 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35-4.00 John Terrett with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.45 How We Worked Then. On the Buses. Memories of the Twenties and Thirties 11.00 Sport 11.02 Citizens (as Radio 4) 11.25 The Health Show. Fears and phobias. Tel. 0345 909 693, incl 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm The Price of Greens (new series). Two British families decide to go "green" 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service: International Call 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Sport 4.05 Children in Romania. Thirty five young people from Northern Ireland travel to Romania to work in three orphanages 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 How Green You Are! A story by Berlie Doherty 7.35 A Stranger Came Ashore. Second of a four-part drama by Mollie Hunter based on an old Scots legend 8.05 In the News 8.30 Formula Five 9.00 Hobson's Choice: Episode two of a four-part dramatisation of Harold Brighouse's classic Lancashire comedy 9.30 Eastern Beat, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service Global Concerns 11.23 Good Books 11.38 The World Today 11.53 Words of Faith 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.15 24 Hours 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 World News 9.15 Country Style 9.30 Financial News 9.39 Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.00 World News 10.15 Instruments of the Orchestra 10.30 Assignment 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 World News 12.15pm Multitrack 2 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.15 24 Hours 2.00 World News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 On the Shelf: The Slave 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 World News 3.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 World News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 Jazz Now and Then 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 News Headlines in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 Global Concerns 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.00 News 9.15 The Reith Lectures 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.15 Music Review 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Story of Western Music 1.00 News 1.15 Outlook 1.40 Financial News 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Raffles 3.00 News 3.15 Seven Seas 3.30 Focus on Faith 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Jazz Now and Then 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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Key witnesses in IRA murder trial are recalled

From MARK FULLER IN ROERMOND, HOLLAND

KEY witnesses are to be recalled for further examination as defence lawyers gained two major concessions in the trial of four suspected IRA members which opened in The Netherlands yesterday. The suspects have been charged with the murder last year of two Australians in the southern Dutch town of Roermond. All four defendants have denied the charges.

Donna Maguire, aged 25, Paul Hughes, aged 27, both from Newry, Co Down, Gerard Harte, aged 27, from Lurgan, and Sean Hick, aged 30, from Dublin, have been accused of murder and or complicity to murder, and with belonging to an illegal organisation, the IRA.

The prosecution counsel alleges the four are members of an IRA active service unit, which planned and carried out the murder of two Australian lawyers in May 1990. The IRA admitted responsibility for the attack, saying that the men had been mistaken for British servicemen.

The presiding judge, Emile Bakermans, granted the defence lawyer's request to call the four key witnesses for further examination. A local man and his wife claim to have identified Harte in the passenger seat of the Mazda getaway car only "seconds" after the attack. Another married couple say they spotted Hughes stealing the Mazda.

Prosecution counsel Hubert Laumen opposed the hearing of the witnesses, saying that they had already "stuck out their necks" by coming forward and identifying the two suspects. Any further exposure would "put their lives at risk", he told the packed court. The witnesses' statements are believed to be crucial to the prosecution's case.

The defence lawyers plan to challenge the validity of the original sightings and subsequent identification by calling a Dutch expert on human perception and memory. Willem Wagenaar, a professor, who also gave evidence in the trial of John Demjanjuk in Israel, will try to establish the fallibility of memory,

Defence lawyer Willem van Bennekom said the witnesses' sighting of Harte could only have been made in a "fleeting second". He said that both the identification of Hughes and Harte occurred only after the suspects' photos had been shown on television. Both sets of witnesses and Professor Wagenaar are due to appear before the court next week.

Morale belies US view

Continued from page 1

12 sons, all of whom are in the army. He has served for ten years and was wounded twice during the war with Iran. Kuwait, he said, had not been bad so far, but then he was not serving on the front line. There was still hot water and electricity in the city, and conditions were far better there than in Mosul.

Hassan had little faith in the diplomatic moves after the American rejection. He, like the allied soldiers interviewed in Saudi Arabia, was almost eager to get on with the war. "We heard today on the news that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait say they want to knock down the leadership of Saddam Hussein. Our aim is clear to us. Let us finish this rubbish diplomacy and get on with the land war. I've been a soldier for ten years, the Americans don't know the Iraqi soldier. Iraqi soldiers can withstand hunger and thirst. If America refuses this request we are ready," he said.

Brave words certainly, and not those of all Iraqis since most want peace, even if it means withdrawing from Kuwait. But his words express a real move in the army; they were not spoken in front of a government minder, but to my Palestinian companion.

Hassan's opinion also reflects what a United Nations officer told me he had heard Iraqi officers say: "They, Iraqi officers, are not just ready to fight, they think they will win."

Practice shot: a Kuwaiti woman, identified only as Cindus, throws a grenade into a bunker while training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She is one of 212 Kuwaitis who are undergoing training in preparation for the assault on their homeland

Warning shots fired as Albanian students dismantle Hoxha statue

From DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

POLICE fired shots in the air to disperse several hundred demonstrators in Tirana last night as Albania seemed to teeter on the brink of revolt. The shooting came after students of the Tirana University dismantled the statue of the late dictator Enver Hoxha in the centre of the capital as several thousand people watched and cheered in support.

Police and the army encircling the district stood by, obviously under orders not to intervene. The situation was described as tense and unpredictable by officials in Yugoslavia, while a witness to the shooting told Reuter news agency from the offices of the main opposition: "They're shooting now. Can you hear them?

"I can see it, it's happening in the street outside the window," Spetin Navarco said in a telephone call from the city centre offices of Albania's Democratic Party. Shots could be heard as he spoke.

The government last night reportedly bowed to the demands of students at Tirana's Enver Hoxha University to have the university's name changed. The students have been on strike since February 6, and more than 700 of them have been on hunger strike since Monday.

The students' strike — the longest in communist Albania's history — was supported by several thousand workers in Tirana who downed tools at the bidding of a new independent union, the first of its kind.

The students are also calling for the resignation of the defence minister, Kico Mustaqi, the foreign minister, Reis Malile, and other leaders who in their view are hindering the process of democratisation in Albania.

Several thousand people rallied in front of the sports centre in the students' compound yesterday, shouting: "We are with you." The name of Hoxha provoked angry jeers, and according to witnesses there were sporadic boos against Albania's president, Ramiz Alia.

Appeals by the city party committee for the students to end their hunger strike were to no avail. The communist leadership insists on the students withdrawing their political demands as a means of resolving the crisis peacefully.

Nevertheless, the toppling of Hoxha's monument holds a message which is more than just symbolic. Mr Alia was closely associated with the late Albanian leader, who had appointed him his heir, which means that, should the question of responsibility of Hoxha come up, that of Mr Alia could hardly escape.

The opposition has so far kept a somewhat equivocal attitude concerning not only Hoxha's cult but also of Mr Alia's own role, insisting so far that this issue should come up only after the March elections.

Political sketch

Full agreement amid the outrage

WHEN bombs brought London's commuters to a halt on Monday, the government did not arrange for a parliamentary statement. Presumably the Leader of the House thought that the ritual expressions of outrage, the word or two in ministers' ears from old gaffers who once met someone in the SAS, and advice from MPs who had wanted to be train-drivers, was unlikely to help.

As yesterday proved, the Leader of the House was right. Chaos brought transport secretary Malcolm Rifkind to the dispatch box — to prove, the hard way, that there was no point in doing so. Mr Rifkind had nothing to say, MPs nothing to ask.

Labour's transport spokesman, John Prescott (to whom "indelicate" applies as "uncaring" might, to Pol Pot) decided to start with a brief reference to the IRA's contribution — then proceed to yet another "major onslaught" on the government's transport policies. Prescott lashed out: at the government, not the IRA. A sometime aspirant for Labour's deputy leadership — and now impressed, perhaps, by Mr Major's ambitions to create a classless society — Prescott seemed to be leading us towards the tasteless society. Terrorist groups should think hard before claiming responsibility for Prescott outbursts: they may be what finally snaps the patience of a tolerant nation.

Of the Liberals' Simon Hughes we may hope it was a lapse of punctuation rather than sense which led him to speak of "terrorists and hoaxers who have added to the chaos and confusion of the last few days."

David Evans (C, Welwyn Hatfield) went further: "The management of British Rail and London Underground should be sacked". Poor Sir Bob Reid must wonder why parliament casts his board as the principal architects of these calamities.

First had come trade and industry questions, in which Peter Lilley, the secretary of state, told a number of his backbench colleagues that they were absolutely right. It didn't seem to matter what you asked Mr Lilley: if you were a Tory you were absolutely right.

John Butterfill (C, Bournemouth W) thought it a fine thing that the tax burden on employers was low. Mr Lilley nodded. "My hon friend is absolutely right . . ."

Sir Anthony Grant (Cambs SW) was concerned about the cost to small businesses of a low VAT threshold. Over to you, minister. "I agree with my hon friend. He makes a very good point . . ."

Mischievously, Richard Holt (C, Langbaurgh) decided to test to breaking point the industry secretary's enthusiasm for colleagues' views. Holt delivered a scathing condemnation of virtually everything the DTI had ever done. As words like "fiasco" and "completely and utterly inexplicable" rained down from the backbench behind him, Lilley flinched.

"My hon friend is a vigorous defender of his constituents . . ."

It was a sort of ordeal-by-tact, from which Ian McCartney (Lab, Makerfield) provided an imaginative diversion. He asked the young minister, Edward Leigh, about the flammability of furniture. EC harmonisation, he warned, would *lower* standards UK furniture-makers must meet.

Leigh, with oratory unlikely to ignite even a small pouffe, agreed. For Labour Nigel Griffiths (and, on the Tory side, Edwina Currie) conjured up a European vision of 1992 in which sofas were spontaneously combusting from Bruges to Barcelona.

Bill Walker (C, N Tayside) suggested that privatised British Steel were doing an excellent job.

"My hon friend is absolutely right."

MATTHEW PARRIS

Saddam given until tonight to pull out

Continued from page 1

Saddam Hussein's forces to leave Kuwait in humiliation, abandoning their military vehicles.

But Douglas Hogg, the junior minister at the Foreign Office, said on Tuesday that the destruction of the Iraqi army was not a war aim. If Saddam were to withdraw immediately, the allies would take no action to remove him from power or change the government in Iraq.

In Washington, however, congressional leaders said that Saddam's removal from power had become an unofficial war aim and the administration is said to have drawn up tough terms for an Iraqi pullout designed to deny Saddam any appearance of victory, any chance to stall and regroup, or any opportunity to open negotiations.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,535

The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship 1991 Eliminator Puzzle

I enclose a stamped and addressed envelope.

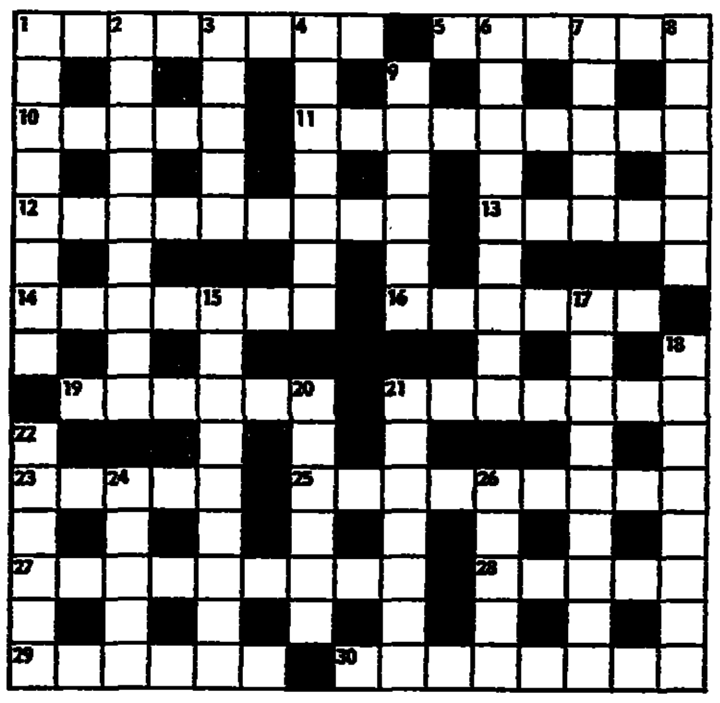
NAME (please print)..

ADDRESS..

....

....

VENUE..



ACROSS

1 Egyptian dancing girl tells joke in book about the stars (8).
5 The Continental dago is hiding capital in Balnibarbi (6).
10 Garrison is holding firm in Bourgogne (5).
11 It helps night vision — you need it for the Red Eye! (9).
12 Grey bird protecting girl in church memorials (9).
13 One under an obligation to introduce new proprietor (5).
14 The horse stand (7).
16 Face Wilde's coward, killing (6).
19 Companions have left Scottish valley to return to class (6).
21 Hellish cry of "Sticks!" (7).
23 Nothing to test the metre like Latin! (5).
25 Eccentric Mandarin mass (5-4).
27 Seamen scowl, playing cards (5,4).
28 Why I am on bail, perhaps? (5).
29 County coach (6).
30 Behold the ship — it circles the globe (3-5).

DOWN

1 With full power, light may go out (8).
2 Master put A's and B's, we bear, but without C's, in the book (9).
3 Port in 25(5).
4 Tree worship (7).
6 Fashionable morals you observe so lovingly (9).
7 Deliberately firing right into a boy (5).
8 French department on the line to stubborn American (6).
9 One of the sledgers Hamlet hit (6).
15 Spiny acacia — you can get torn there (5-4).
17 Jubilation about smug Delilah's handiwork (9).
18 The expert starts crosswords, initially, outside or inside (8).
20 Use iron in clump of grass from small mound (6).
21 A Dickensian 16, and a successful Blue (7).
22 Oswald's dirty linen (6).
24 About to move into the red queen? Sink down in fear! (5).
26 Walk wearily — run in the end (5).

Concise crossword, page 17.

All entrants who qualified for regional finals in Glasgow, Leeds, and Birmingham have been accepted for those finals. All regional finals will begin at 2pm, and the competitors may check in from 1pm. As there are more qualifers for the Bristol and London A and B finals than can be accommodated, those who have been notified of their qualification are required to attempt this eliminator puzzle. Qualifiers are strongly urged to submit their attempts even if they cannot complete the puzzle, since entries with several omissions or mistakes are likely to be admitted. The solution will appear next Thursday and entrants will be individually informed of the result of the elimination within three weeks. The completed form and puzzle, which must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (9 inches x 4, please), should be sent to The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship, Green Farm, Sawley, Ripon, N. Yorks, HG4 3EQ so that the envelope is postmarked not later than Wednesday, February 27. If you have a preference for either the A or the B London final, please indicate under Venue and we will do our best to accommodate you.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PILCROW
a. A crowbar hammer
b. An Amerindian tribe
c. A paragraph mark

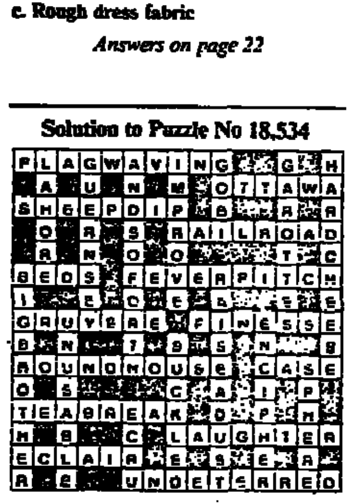
NEROLI
a. A orange blossom oil
b. Descendants of Nero
c. Black pasta

DIVELLENT
a. A hair-remover
b. Unwilling
c. Drawing asunder

RATINE
a. The female water rat
b. A Romanian dialect
c. Rough dress fabric

Answers on page 22

Solution to Puzzle No 18,534



WEATHER

Eastern England will start cloudy with some rain then become brighter. The rest of England and Wales will have sun and showers, which will be frequent and heavy in the West. Snow and sleet are likely over the Pennines and Welsh mountains. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sun and showers, some heavy with hail and thunder. Sleet and snow are likely over the hills. Outlook: rain and strong winds.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c	Malaga	16	61	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f	Malta	15	59	c
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Melb'rne	19	66	c
Algiers	13	55	c	Mexico C*	23	73	s
Amst'dm	4	39	f	Miami*	24	75	c
Athens	15	59	f	Milan	6	43	f
Barbads*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-3	27	c
Barcelna	14	57	c	Moscow	-8	18	f
Belgrade	6	43	s	Munich	4	39	s
Berlin	5	41	f	Nairobi	20	68	t
Bermuda*	21	70	c	Naples	15	59	f
Biarritz	11	52	c	N Delhi	21	70	s
Borde'x	11	52	s	N York*	4	39	fg
Brussels	1	34	d	Nice	15	59	c
Budapst	1	34	s	Oslo	3	37	c
B Aires*	22	72	r	Paris	3	37	c
Cairo	21	70	f	Peking	4	39	c
Cape Tn	24	75	f	Perth	38	100	s
C'blanca	13	55	c	Prague	6	43	f
Chicago*	3	37	c	Reykjavik	-1	30	s
Ch'church	14	57	s	Rhodes	17	63	s
Cologne	8	46	s	Rio de J	27	81	s
C'phagn	1	34	c	Rome	13	55	f
Corfu	16	61	s	Salzburg	6	43	s
Dublin	10	50	s	S F'risco*	15	59	s
Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Santiago*	28	82	s
Faro	16	61	s	S Paulo*	26	79	c
Florence	13	55	s	Seoul	2	36	sn
Frankfurt	4	39	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Funchal	17	63	s	St'kholm	2	36	c
Geneva	1	34	fg	Strasb'rg	0	32	fg
Gibraltar	16	61	s	Sydney	23	73	c
Helsinki	-1	30	f	Tangier	16	61	s
Innsbrck	7	45	s	Tenerife	18	64	c
Istanbul	9	48	s	Tokyo	7	45	s
Jo'burg*	21	70	f	Toronto*	8	46	c
Karachi	23	73	s	Tunis	16	61	c
L Palmas	18	64	f	Valencia	14	57	r
Le Tquet	6	43	f	Vanc'ver*	11	52	f
Lisbon	14	57	c	Venice	6	43	c
Locarno	6	43	s	Vienna	0	32	fg
L Angels*	20	68	s	Warsaw	2	36	s
Luxembg	4	39	s	Wash'ton*	11	52	r
Luxor	31	88	s	Wel'ton	15	59	s
Madrid	11	52	s	Zurich	-1	30	fg
Majorca	13	55	f				

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.1	.02	7	45	rain
Anglesey	0.3	-	7	45	bright
Belfast	-	.02	5	41	rain
Birmingham	7.0	-	6	43	sunny
Blackpool	2.0	-	6	43	bright
Bognor Regis	8.4	-	5	41	sunny
Bournemouth	4.5	-	7	45	bright
Brighton	4.5	-	5	41	sunny
Bristol	7.5	-	6	43	sunny
Buxton	5.5	-	3	37	sunny
Cardiff	8.1	-	5	41	sunny
Cromer	4.2	-	6	43	bright
Douglas	2.6	.01	7	45	rain
Edinburgh	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	0.2	.01	3	37	rain
Exmouth	2.8	-	6	43	bright
Falmouth	1.4	-	7	45	dull
Folkestone	8.3	-	6	43	sunny
Hastings	4.9	-	5	41	sunny
Hunstanton	7.8	-	5	41	sunny
Jersey	2.4	-	4	39	fog
Kinloss	0.2	.06	10	50	cloudy
Leeds	4.6	-	6	43	sunny
Lerwick	-	.36	7	45	rain.
Littlehampton	6.9	-	6	43	sunny
Lowestoft	6.4	-	6	43	sunny
Minehead	7.5	-	7	45	sunny
Morecambe	1.2	-	6	43	bright
Nottingham	5.5	-	5	41	sunny
Penzance	0.5	-	7	45	bright
Plymouth	3.6	-	7	45	sunny
Poole	6.7	-	7	45	sunny
Saunton Snd	7.2	-	9	48	sunny
Scarborough	7.1	-	3	37	sunny
Scilly Isles	-	-	7	45	dull
Shanklin	6.3	-	5	41	sunny
Southend	6.3	-	5	41	sunny
Southsea	0.6	-	6	43	sunny
St Ives	1.6	-	6	43	cloudy
Stornoway	-	.12	9	48	rain
Teignmouth	2.9	-	6	43	bright
Tenby	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Tiree	-	.15	8	46	drizzle
Torquay	2.6	-	6	43	sunny
Weymouth	1.7	-	6	43	cloudy
Worthing	6.8	-	5	41	sunny

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F) Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. Sun. 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F) Rain. 24hr to 6 pm, 0.09 in. Sun. 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

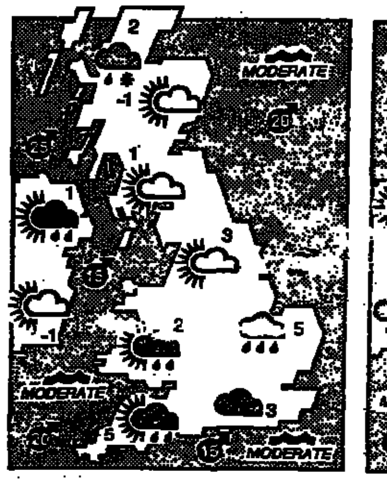
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

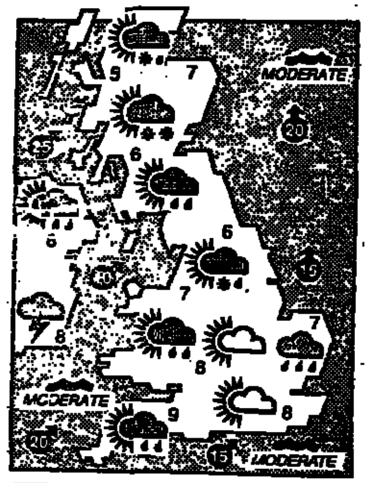
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	8	46	c	Guernsey	5	41	fg
B'rmgham	6	43	c	Inverness	5	41	c
Blackpool	7	45	c	Jersey	3	37	fg
Bristol	8	46	c	London	7	45	c
Cardiff	7	45	r	M'nchster	5	41	c
Edinburgh	7	45	c	Newcastle	7	45	c
Glasgow	7	45	d	R'naldsway	7	45	c

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 5.26 pm to 7.02 am
Bristol 5.36 pm to 7.11 am
Edinburgh 5.29 pm to 7.23 am
Manchester 5.30 pm to 7.14 am
Penzance 5.50 pm to 7.21 am

Sun rises: 7.4 am
Sun sets: 5.26 pm
Moon sets 1.7 am
Moon rises 9.11 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.33	6.7	6.10	6.3	Liverpool	2.58	8.5	3.25	8.5
Aberdeen	5.27	3.7	5.44	3.8	Lowestoft	1.7	2.4	1.54	2.0
Avonmouth	11.9	11.6	11.25	11.2	Margate	3.32	4.6	4.17	4.2
Belfast	2.58	3.2	3.24	3.2	Milford Haven	10.17	6.2	10.40	5.9
Cardiff	10.54	10.8	11.10	10.5	Newquay	9.13	6.3	9.37	6.0
Devonport	9.29	4.8	9.58	4.6	Oban	9.42	3.3	9.46	3.2
Dover	2.40	6.4	3.8	5.9	Penzance	8.38	4.8	9.10	4.6
Falmouth	8.59	4.6	9.26	4.4	Portland	10.40	1.7	10.54	1.5
Glasgow	4.50	4.5	5.7	4.3	Portsmouth	3.17	4.2	3.41	4.0
Harwich	3.36	3.8	4.12	3.5	Shoreham	2.50	5.7	3.17	5.5
Holyhead	2.8	5.0	2.33	5.0	Southampton	2.48	4.3	3.10	4.1
Hull	10.21	6.6	10.42	6.8	Swansea	10.19	8.4	10.40	8.1
Ilfracombe	9.57	8.1	10.17	7.8	Tees	7.54	4.6	8.11	4.7
King's Lynn	10.27	5.6	10.44	5.8	W'ton-on-Nze	3.31	4.0	4.4	3.7
Leith	6.47	4.8	7.8	5.0					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

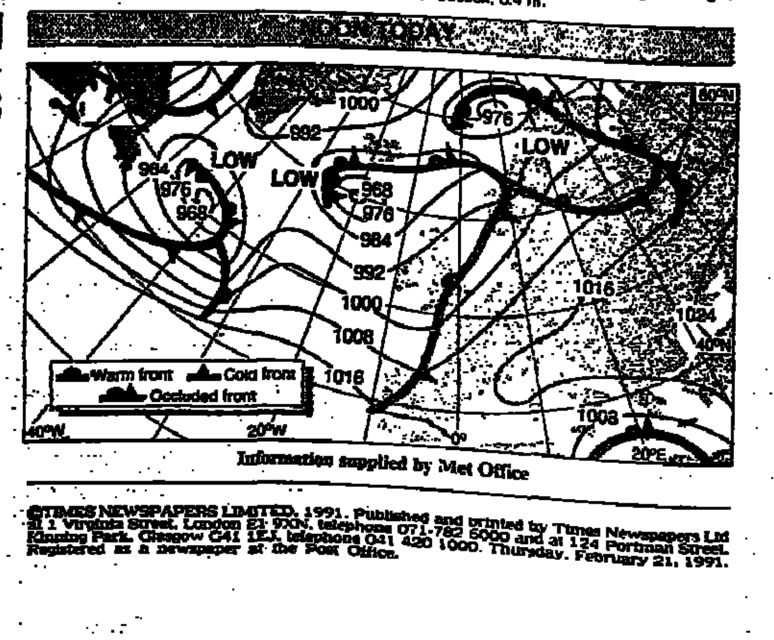
LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F) Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,006.0 millibars, steady.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Kinloss, Moray Firth, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.36 in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 8.4 hr.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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هدية من الاهرام

هكذا من الاه

THE TIMES

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE **25-30**
- LAW **29**
- SPORT **31-34**

BUSINESS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Sky TV's sport deal outlawed

THE European Commission has outlawed as a violation of fair competition rules an agreement between Sky Television and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) that provided their shared *satellite* channel Eurosport with exclusive rights to broadcast major sporting events (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, said Eurosport in its present form violated Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. He said the deal between Sky and the EBU, which groups together 39 European television networks including the BBC, enabled them to cooperate when they should be competing, while at the same time denying access to sports programmes by other satellite or cable channels.

The ruling has immediate effect and will allow Screensport, Eurosport's rival, and other channels to compete on an equal basis for the rights to European sporting events. A separate investigation by EC anti-trust officials will probe the exclusive nature of the EBU itself.

Sky Television, which is in talks to sell its 50 per cent stake in Eurosport, said last night that its lawyers were studying the implications of the ruling and that it was too early to comment.

Details, page 34

Yorkshire gains

Pre-tax profits of Yorkshire Chemicals were restrained by currencies in the year ended December and only rose from £9.6 million to £10.8 million on a 16.5 per cent increase in turnover to £81.6 million. The final dividend of 9p (8.5p) makes 13.5p (12p).

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9485 (-0.0040)
German mark
2.9150 (+0.0029)
Exchange index
94.2 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1826.2 (-12.3)
FT-SE 100
2296.8 (-15.6)
New York Dow Jones
2902.97 (-29.21)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
26198.79 (+31.81)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Johnson Cleaners	420p (+18p)
Wagon Ind	340p (+10p)
Commercial Union	525p (+10p)
General Accident	553½p (+11p)
A Kershaw	535p (+12p)
SA Breweries	725p (+15p)
Provident	448½p (+24p)
Schroders	742½p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Sothebys	725p (-13p)
Reed Int	390p (-12p)
Grand Met	714p (-18p)
Hepworth	302½p (-12p)
Glaxo	938½p (-32p)
Hawker Siddeley	491½p (-18p)
Trusthouse Forte	245½p (-10p)
Kwik Save	529p (-16p)
Broken Hill	410½p (-12p)
Yorkshire Chem	362½p (-10p)
Community Hospital	161½p (-10p)
Sun Alliance	365½p (-9p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base. 13½%
3-month interbank 13-12$^{15}/_{16}$%
3-month eligible bills 12$^{9}/_{32}$-12$^{7}/_{32}$%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 7%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.93-5.91%*
30-year bonds 98$^{11}/_{16}$-98$^{15}/_{16}$*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9485	£: $1.9460*
£: DM2.9150	$: DM1.4975*
£: SwFr2.4892	$: SwFr1.2805*
£: FFr9.9072	$: FFr5.0810*
£: Yen256.43	$: Yen131.80*
£: Index 94.2	$: Index 60.7
ECU £0.703462	SDR £0.735365
£: ECU1.421540	£: SDR1.359868

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $363.75 pm-$364.65
close $364.40-364.90 (£186.60-187.10)
New York:
Comex $365.15-365.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) .... $18.25 bbl ($17.45)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.555	2.405
Austria Sch	21.40	20.00
Belgium Fr	62.70	58.70
Canada $	2.365	2.215
Denmark Kr	11.69	10.99
Finland Mkk	7.43	6.98
France Fr	10.31	9.66
Germany Dm	3.045	2.845
Greece Dr	331	311
Hong Kong $	15.70	14.90
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2285	2145
Japan Yen	272	255
Netherlands Gld	3.425	3.215
Norway Kr	11.89	11.19
Portugal Esc	266.25	250.25
South Africa Rd	5.60	5.00
Spain Pta	189.60	175.60
Sweden Kr	11.36	10.68
Switzerland Fr	2.80	2.43
Turkey Lira	6800	5800
USA $	2.04	1.92
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	27.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.2 (January)

Halifax gives 'clear lead' over rate cuts

By Sara McConnell

THE Halifax, Britain's largest building society, added to pressures on the Bank of England and the government by cutting its mortgage rate for new borrowers by three-quarters of a point to 13.75 per cent.

The building society, declaring yesterday that it wished to give "a clear lead" on lower mortgage rates, added that existing borrowers were virtually guaranteed a similar cut when base rates fell.

The new rate will hold only until the end of April, however, if there is no change in base rates.

The society said that it will keep the situation under review, but feels there are "clear indicators that there will be a further cut".

Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "We want to give new borrowers the benefit of lower interest rates as soon as possible and set a clear lead for rates for existing borrowers when base rates do fall further."

He added: "Lower mortgage rates will pave the way for a gradual recovery in the housing market."

The rate drop means new borrowers with a £40,000 endowment mortgage will pay £20 less a month.

However, 1.3 million of Halifax's 1.7 million borrowers whose mortgage rates are reviewed annually had their yearly rate set at 14.5 per cent in February, and there is no indication yet that this will fall.

A Halifax spokesman said: "The scheme envisages a 14.5 per cent rate for the year but we are keeping this under review."

In a further incentive, first-time buyers at the Halifax will be guaranteed a rate of 12.5 per cent until the end of this year.

Other leading lenders say they have no plans to follow the Halifax's lead and are waiting for a further cut in interest rates.

A spokeswoman for the Abbey National said: "We haven't changed our line. We have said that if rates come down we will cut our rates by 0.75 of a point for everybody. We would welcome a cut to 13 per cent."

A spokesman for the Woolwich Building Society said: "We want to see rates clarified before we make a move on rates. We don't want to become a hostage to fortune, although we share the Halifax's optimism about a rate cut."

The Nationwide Building Society, the second largest society, also has no plans to change the rate for its 400,000 customers. The Nationwide set an annual rate of 14.5 per cent at the beginning of February.

In the City, some analysts saw the Halifax giving fresh support to the demands for further cuts in the base rate.

Gerard Lyons, the chief economist at DKB International, said cuts, or promises of cuts, by leading building societies "can only add to the pressure for the authorities to cut, though I don't think it's going to be the catalyst that forces them to cut rates again."

John Wrigglesworth, analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said that as Britain's biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax's position was enough to increase the pressure for rate cuts.

Michael Lever, of Smith New Court, was more sceptical. He saw the move by the Halifax largely as a "marketing ploy to try to increase market share".

The recession is confirmed

By Colin Narbrough, economics correspondent

GOVERNMENT figures gave official confirmation of the recession gripping Britain and aroused market hopes of a fresh cut in interest rates only a week after Normam Lamont, the Chancellor, pared half a point off base rates.

The need for lower interest rates was underscored by a welter of data that indicated little chance of any early lifting of the economic gloom. Credit growth was weaker than expected, manufacturers have destocked sharply and construction orders tumbled.

The Bank of England sought to dampen expectations of an imminent easing, signalling strongly through its market operations that it wanted base rate to stay at 13.5 per cent.

Money market dealers were unconvinced and three-month interbank interest rates closed $^{1}/_{32}$ easier at 13-12$^{7}/_{8}$ per cent, with dealers looking for a half-point base rate cut before the Budget. Amid mounting evidence of the second worst recession since the second world war, the domestic case for cutting base rate is beyond doubt, but membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism constrains policy.

Gross domestic product data showed a provisional seasonally adjusted fall of 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of last year, after a revised 1.3 per cent decline in the third. Final-quarter GDP was 1.1 per cent below the same quarter of 1989, making it the first year-on-year fall since the second quarter of 1981. Service industries saw a decline of 0.5 per cent in the final quarter. Though Mr Lamont has acknowledged a recession, the government figures confirm that the economy has shrunk for two consecutive quarters.

Manufacturers slashed stocks by a provisional £911 million in the final quarter, the largest quarterly destocking since the end of 1980. In the third quarter, stocks rose by £137 million, suggesting involuntary stockbuilding. The evidence of large-scale destocking indicates a worsening recession, but should improve companies' cashflow.

Construction industry orders in the fourth quarter were 19 per cent down on the same quarter in 1989. Overall orders last year were 15 per cent below the previous year.

Money supply figures showed a sharp slowdown in lending by the banks and building societies. This increased by £3.1 billion in January, for the slowest annual growth since June 1982.

M0, the officially targeted narrow money measure, rose a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent last month for an annual rise 3.5 per cent. Though faster than the 2.7 annual rise in December, weekly data suggest deceleration again this month. Clearing bank lending to the private sector fell £517 million in January after a £173 million rise in December.

The pound gained over a quarter pfennig against the mark, ending at DM2.9149. It lost ground, however, against the dollar, slipping to $1.9485 from $1.9525. Sterling held just above its 180.589 lower limit against the Spanish peseta at the bottom of the ERM.

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Shell to spend £6bn a year

ALAN WELLER

Long view: Sir Peter Holmes says investment will be spread round the world but focus on Southeast Asia

Greenspan forecasts modest US recovery

From Susan Ellicott
in Washington

ALAN Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, predicted a moderate recovery in the American economy in coming quarters unless a prolonged war in the Gulf and problems in the banking system worsen the recession.

He said this year's inflation rate is likely to be one of the lowest in recent years. The latest published core rate of inflation year-on-year was 5.6 per cent.

In his semi-annual testimony on monetary policy before the Senate banking committee, Mr Greenspan said that events in the Middle East meant "it would be most unwise to rule out the possibility that the recession may become more serious than is already apparent".

The Fed chairman added: "The balance of forces does appear to suggest that this downturn could well prove shorter and shallower than most prior postwar recessions." Mr Greenspan also said the dollar has shown "unwelcome weakening tendencies at times recently".

His comments came after the labour department reported that consumer prices rose a higher than expected 0.4 per cent last month, despite a drop in oil costs after the start of the Gulf war.

The increase translates into a 5.5 per cent annual rate, which is outside the Fed's anticipated rise of between 3.25 per cent and 4 per cent this year. But it was below last year's 6.2 per cent increase, which was was inflated mainly by higher energy prices resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The underlying core rate of inflation, excluding the volatile energy and food sectors, rose 0.8 per cent.

Mr Greenspan said that the reduction of cost and price pressure "has given the Federal Reserve scope to move aggressively to counter contractionary influences on the economy without contributing to market concerns about the inflation outlook."

His comments were widely interpretated as a signal that the Fed has the scope to further lower interest rates if desired.

Electricity chief will curb prices

By Martin Waller

ELECTRICITY prices will not be allowed to rise by the 13 per cent predicted by some commentators, the man in charge of regulating the newly privatised industry said, although rises in excess of inflation may be countenanced. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director-general of electricity supply, is concerned about the reports because of their "adverse effect on consumers".

He criticised one suggestion that the annual rises (to be announced for the year from April 1) could technically go as high as 21 per cent. He said in a letter to the chairmen of the 12 regional electricity distribution companies: "A tariff increase of 13 per cent, let alone one of 21 per cent, is considerably above the level compatible with the supplementary restrictions on supply charges in your licence.

"These require you to use your best endeavours to keep average unit revenues to a level determined by movements in the retail price index."

Inflation was running at 10.9 per cent year-on-year in October, while there had been a further increase in the fossil-fuel levy, which subsidises other forms of electricity generation, such as nuclear power, of 0.4 points. Professor Littlechild said: "Those factors will permit a significant tariff increase this year, but not one of 13 per cent."

None of the 12 has yet indicated how much prices will be raised and the issue is clearly a politically sensitive one.

- John Wakeham, the energy secretary, will tomorrow name the price at which National Power and PowerGen, the country's two electricity generators, will be sold after the latest round of preliminary bids from City institutions suggested the shares could be sold on a yield of 6.1 per cent.

This is substantially below predictions and 0.2 points below that reached in the first round of bids in the "bookbuilding" process being used to sell the generators. But the actual yield expected to be a little higher, to attract the private investor.

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Oil group assets to double in five years

By Martin Barrow

THE Royal Dutch/Shell group will double its asset base within five years, funding capital expenditure of more than £6 billion a year from its cash flow, Sir Peter Holmes, the chairman, has forecast.

Investment would be spread across the world, but weighted towards Southeast Asia, where demand growth would be strongest. But Sir Peter appeared to rule out acquisitions of large listed oil groups. He also forecast that oil prices would settle "in the high teens".

Shell's results for last year showed replacement cost income, which excludes stock losses or gains, of £3.01 billion (£3.58 billion). In the fourth quarter, replacement cost income rose from £892 million to £963 million. On a historic cost basis, annual net income fell to £3.61 billion (£3.95 billion), even though average oil prices were $6 higher at $24. Fourth quarter earnings rose from £1.02 billion to £1.14 billion. The total dividend rises to 20.1p (18.4p), with a final of 11.7p (10.7p).

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World trade talks resume

From George Brock in Brussels

WORLD trade reform talks, halted last December by farm subsidy disputes, were revived in Geneva yesterday.

Trade negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) meeting agreed a formula under which European Community and American negotiators could continue to debate cuts in farm support.

The formula, however, does little more than restart talks where they were broken off at the end of last year, when the Community's offer of subsidy cuts failed to satisfy America and the Cairns Group of exporting countries.

The Community has now agreed, according to Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of Gatt, that detailed commitments will have to be made on reducing domestic and export subsidies and import barriers. Rufus Yerxa, the American ambassador to the talks, said: "I think we are now seeing for the first time some signs of real progress in the agricultural negotiations."

In Strasbourg yesterday, the European Commission considered the first draft of this year's agricultural price package. The two current rounds of talks on farm subsidies in the Community are both politically tense and both liable to influence the Gatt meeting.

The EC price-setting round also takes place against the background of fears that the Community's farm budget, accounting for 60 per cent of all EC spending, is out of control once more.

The Commission was understood to be discussing a 7 per cent reduction in cereal supports and a 2 per cent cut in the dairy quota.

The Blue Arrow trial

Jury 'not on crusade to regulate City'

By Angela Mackay

THE jury in the Blue Arrow fraud trial has been warned not to embark on a crusade to regulate the City but confine its deliberations to the evidence relating to the ten defendants.

On the final day of his opening address, Nicholas Purnell, QC, for the prosecution, said: "You are not engaged on some crusade to regulate the City — statute and rules are designed to do that. Your function is to examine the evidence in this case and decide the issue: did these defendants dishonestly agree to mislead the market?"

Blue Arrow launched a record £837 million rights issue in 1987 to become the world's largest employment agency by taking over Manpower, its American rival. The defendants allegedly kept secret the failure of the issue to protect their reputations.

Mr Purnell alleged the conspiracy to cover up the failed issue was "very much a corporate fraud" and not a "simple frolic" by individual company employees. The secret take-up of 54 million shares after the issue had closed was a transaction requiring the "corporate muscle" of NatWest Investment Bank and the experience of UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, the broker.

The jury at the Old Bailey was told that there did not need to be losers in order for it to find defendants guilty of conspiracy to defraud. Mr Purnell said that in this case, there were losers covering the whole spectrum from small private investors to large institutions. He said one private investor bought 600 shares after reading that the initial issue and its subsequent placing were fully subscribed. Sun Life, an institutional Blue Arrow shareholder, decided not to take up the rights offer, but on learning of its success bought 500,000 shares.

County NatWest, its parent County NatWest Investment Bank, UBS Phillips & Drew and seven professional advisers deny conspiring to mislead the market over the outcome of the rights issue in September 1987.

The individual defendants are David Reed, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County NatWest; Jonathan Cohen, chief executive at County and deputy chief executive with NatWest Investment Bank at the time of the issue; Nicholas Wells, former County executive director and a former member of its corporate advisory department; Stephen Clark, County's group finance director; Alan Keat, a partner in Travers Smith Braithwaite, the City solicitors, who advised County on the rights issue; Martin Gibbs, former director of UBS Phillips & Drew and Christopher Stainforth, former director of UBS Phillips & Drew corporate finance.

The case continues.

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Provident warning follows 14% rise

PROVIDENT Financial, the door-to-door money lending and insurance group, escaped the heavy bad debts that hit the large banks last year and increased pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £36 million.

Peter Hogg, the chief executive, has given warning that the company faces difficulties this year as more customers become unemployed.

Provident said bad debt provisions in its collected credit business had not increased because its customers were mainly council tenants, who were not affected by high interest rates. Profits in the main credit division rose 10 per cent to £32.7 million and the group is paying a 15.5p final dividend, making 23.5p for the year, up 15 per cent.

Mr Hogg said the company had cut costs by nearly £1 million to prepare for the rise in unemployment, and increased profit margins. He said Provident's money collectors would be sympathetic in genuine hardship cases. Provident's profits were badly affected in the early Eighties, when unemployment reached 3.2 million.

People's Motor Finance, the group's car financing subsidiary, made a small loss due to a rise in bad debts. Meanwhile, profits at Provident's insurance division fell 26 per cent to £6.9 million due to a rise in claims in Car Care Plan, the group's car warranty offshoot.

Saatchi's package due today

The delayed Saatchi & Saatchi refinancing is expected today, according to sources close to the company, who have again stressed the package has not hit a last-minute hitch.

The unveiling of the deal was expected on Tuesday, but advisers are blaming complex legal requirements and logistical difficulties caused by the involvement of American parties for the further delay.

The deal will feature a heavily discounted rights issue to raise £50 million and a swap package that will wipe out the existing classes of convertible and other preference shares in exchange for new equity.

Advisers are denying that the delay was caused by opposition from existing holders of ordinary shares, who will see their holdings diluted to as little as 15 per cent of their existing level.

Tarmac to lay tunnel tracks

TARMAC, the construction group, has been awarded part of a £70 million contract to instal railway track inside the Channel tunnel. The company, based at Wolverhampton, will be paid £15 million for its part in a three-nation consortium to fit more than 100 kilometres of track inside the two main tunnels.

Neville Simms, the chief executive, said: "Many European countries will be using the opportunity of the Channel tunnel to boost their own rail networks, and we hope that our unique multi-national joint venture will see us well placed for winning further contracts."

Montcocol, of France, will lead the consortium, which includes two other French companies, Boric SAE and Travaux de Sud Ouest, and Heitkam of Germany. The contract starts this summer.

Cullen appointed

DE LA RUE has appointed Leslie Cullen, aged 39, as finance director from March 21. He replaces John White, who joined De La Rue 15 years ago and becomes managing director of the security print division.

SelecTV links with MAI in broadcasting licence move

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MAI Broadcasting, the consortium formed by Michael Palin, the actor, and Roger Laughton, former director of co-productions at the BBC, to bid for a Channel 3 licence, has linked with Britain's largest producer of comedy television programmes.

SelecTV, best known for *Birds of a Feather*, *Lovejoy*, *Girls on Top* and *Nightingales*, has become "a substantial minority shareholder" in MAI Broadcasting. SelecTV will supply the consortium with its comedy programming on a "not entirely exclusive basis", Mr Laughton, the chief executive, said.

MAI Broadcasting, a new division of MAI, the quoted money broking-to-market research company, is planning multiple bids for a number of licence areas. It has been tipped to go for both TV-am, and either TVS, HTV or Anglia. Mr Laughton said: "The fact that we've got together with SelecTV does not rule out TV-am; it remains a possibility but now not the only possibility."

It is not yet clear whether SelecTV will be able to continue supplying the BBC or other ITV companies as an independent if MAI wins a licence. The government, which requires broadcasters to open 25 per cent of their schedules to independent producers by 1993, will rule soon on whether an independent with a stake in an ITV company can still qualify as an independent with respect to the 25 per cent quota rule.

MAI Broadcasting, which is the first to link up with a major independent, said talks are continuing with other independent producers.

The deal will improve MAI's chances of winning a licence. George Russell, the Independent Television Commission chairman, has said newcomers would have to link with major independents to be able to displace any of the middle to large incumbents.

Simon Albery, a consortium member, said MAI plans to win a licence through the exceptional circumstances clause in the Broadcasting Act. Channel 3 licences will go to the highest bidder unless a lower bidder demonstrates it can provide an "exceptionally" high quality service.

Fairbriar tumbles into a loss

By MATTHEW BOND

SALES at Fairbriar were almost halved to £8.3 million (£16.2 million) in the six months to end-September, resulting in a pre-tax loss of £3.2 million, compared with a profit of £3.3 million.

The interest charge of the Southeast housebuilder and commercial property developer more than trebled to £4.8 million. No dividend is being paid (1.25p).

Remo Dipre, the chairman, said there had been no recovery in the housing market and that no major improvement was likely in the short term.

JOHN MANNING

Worst debt from small business: Hepher yesterday

Abbey Life says one in 20 default on loans

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Abbey Life, the financial services group, has disclosed that 35,000 of its borrowers, one in 20, are in default on their loans.

The group increased pre-tax profits last year by 8 per cent to £319 million, thanks to a strong performance from its life assurance companies. Lloyds Abbey is holding its final dividend at 11p, to make an unchanged 17p for the year. Figures were hit by a 41 per cent profits downturn from Lloyds Bowmaker, the consumer credit subsidiary. This suffered a 166 per cent increase in bad debt provisions. Michael Hepher, the chairman, said a disproportionate amount of bad debts came from small businesses.

Lloyds Abbey's subsidiary, Black Horse Financial Services, increased pre-tax profits by 60 per cent.

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BAA 'is holding back' air industry

THE pricing policies of BAA, the airport operator, are holding back the British air industry and encouraging business travellers to avoid Britain, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been told.

The European Regional Airlines Association (ERA) told the monopolies commission that BAA, whose airports include Heathrow and Gatwick, had implemented charging policies that were "persistently and continuously discriminatory against regional operations".

The association said the viability of air links with British and continental regions was threatened.

The ERA also predicted there would be a migration of business activity and population away from the regions to the already overcrowded Southeast.

The association, whose members include a number of British airlines, airports and manufacturers, added: "Putting vital air links at risk will simply exacerbate the UK recession."

When BAA, formerly British Airports Authority, was privatised it was decided that its operations would be investigated by the monopolies commission every five years.

The first of these investigations began before Christmas.

The association's presentation to the monopolies commission was made by Mike Ambrose, the ERA's British-based director, who said yesterday: "We have provided clear evidence of discrimination by the BAA and compared it with the actions of other major European airports."

Mr Ambrose added: "The BAA's influence on regional economies far exceeds its responsibilities as simply an airport operator."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Community Hospitals plans £10.4m rights

COMMUNITY Hospitals Group, the private healthcare services group, plans to raise £10.4 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 136p. The company said the issue, underwritten by Granville & Co, will help the group finance its £33 million development programme over the next two years. Cazenove & Co is broker to the issue.

Community Hospitals, which has nine hospitals and six nursing homes, said there are "a number of opportunities in the health care market" which it must take now to consolidate and strengthen its position. The company said pre-tax profits were down from £3.09 million to £1.99 million in the six months to December, although there was a £1.07 million exceptional gain last time. Turnover was £16.1 million (£12 million). Earnings per share slip to 5.8p (8.7p). The interim dividend is 2.2p (1.9p).

Sony lowers forecast

SONY has lowered its group operating profit forecast for the year to March 31, 1991 to 320 billion yen (£1.25 billion) from a November projection of Y360 billion. The downward revision was due to increased competition and a dull domestic market for audio and visual equipment. Group net and sales forecasts were unchanged.

St David's lifts payout

PRE-TAX profits at St David's Investment Trust increased from £327,000 to £387,000 in the six months to end-January. The interim dividend is 4.7p (4.4p) on earnings a share of 6.85p (5.9p). The net asset value per income share was 103.54p compared with 102.18p a year earlier, while net assets per capital share fell to 113.8p (166.86p).

Mayne slides 21.8%

MAYNE Nickless, an Australian transport and security group, blamed difficult conditions for the 21.8 per cent slide in net profit to Aus$51.3 million (£20.8 million) in the half year to December 30. The interim dividend is being cut from 20 to 17.5 cents.

Although transport revenue rose 15 per cent to Aus$746.91 million, profit from transport fell 18.8 per cent to Aus$37.05 million before interest and tax.

NAV rises at Ecu Trust

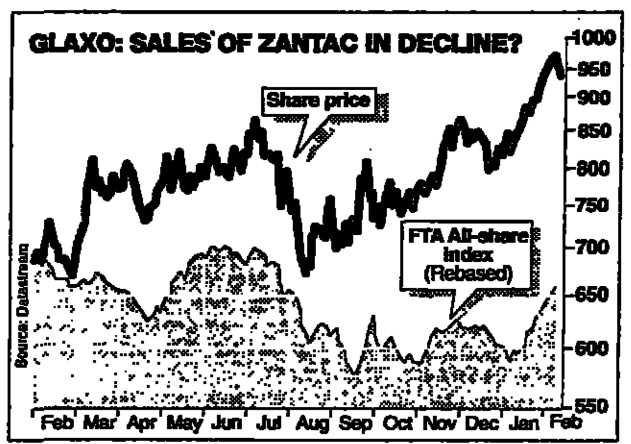
ECU Trust, the £14.3 million investment trust launched last July with a net asset value of 47.8p, reports a net asset value of 48.1p at end-December, excluding earnings. Pre-tax revenue was £564,000 in the five months. Gross income was £680,000 and earnings per share were 1.24p. There is no interim dividend. The final dividend will be 1p per share.

Herrburger in the black

HERRBURGER Brooks, the piano components maker, reported an interim pre-tax profit of £104,331 (£52,658 loss) to end-November. The company made a trading loss of £55,339 (£54,125 profit). There was a £252,880 exchange gain and turnover climbed to £3.62 million (£3.48 million). Earnings per share were 5.19p (3.02p loss).

STOCK MARKET

Glaxo shares fall as brokers give warnings on Zantac sales



THE interim figures from Glaxo next week are expected to show that Zantac, its best-selling, anti-ulcer drug, has started to lose its hold on world markets because of increased competition.

Two securities firms have issued warnings that the sales of Zantac are now falling. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, and UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, are both looking for pre-tax profits of £580 million, a drop of £5 million on the corresponding period last year. However, Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group, is expected to report a 30 per cent increase in profits, helped by Losec, its anti-ulcer drug that has been making increasing inroads into Zantac's market share. Nikko's Andrew Porter says that Glaxo's new products are exciting and will make up for Zantac in the mid-Nineties but the heady growth days are over.

Ian Moore, an analyst at UBS P&D, said: "Sales of Zantac are in decline. There has been a fall in the market share. Sales levels can be maintained but the costs would be prohibitive."

UBS has now lowered its pre-tax profit forecast for the full year to June 30 from £1.18 billion to £1.15 billion and for the following year from £1.3 billion to £1.2 billion. Glaxo finished 32p lower at 939p.

The rest of the equity market spent another drab day with investors keeping a wary eye on the Moscow peace initiative. Hopes for another cut in bank base rates were placed on the back-burner with the latest output figures showing the economy sliding deeper into recession. A dull performance overnight on Wall Street and a fall of more than 30 points in the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading yesterday saw share prices in London close near the bottom as profits were taken.

The FT-SE 100 index ended 15.6 down at 2,296.8. The FT index of 30 shares fell 12.3 to 1,826.2 with 514 million shares traded. Government securities ended with losses stretching to £½ at the longer end as the Bank of England moved to play down speculation of an imminent cut in base rates.

Among the leaders, ICI fell 15p to £10.13 ahead of figures next week. Grand Metropolitan lost 18p to 714p as Merrill Lynch, the New York securities house, urged its clients to take profits. The search was also on to find out which of the top 200 companies is contemplating a rights issue. Top of the list is Land Securities, 11p down at 539p, and Cadbury Schweppes, unchanged at 360p.

The high street stores came under renewed selling pressure after a downgrading of the sector by UBS P&D. John Smith, a retail analyst, says that the sector is now lower than when Britain joined the ERM — despite the market's recent strength and two interest rate cuts.

He said: "All the evidence points to the fact that the recovery is further off than was first thought. It's obvious that the fall off in demand was much worse than originally anticipated."

His views were also reflected by rival broker Kleinwort Benson, which is forecasting a drop in expenditure growth this year from 2 per cent to 0.3 per cent.

Among those companies that have seen their forecasts cut is **Boots**, unchanged at 340p, **Burton**, 2p softer at 86p, **Argos**, 2p lower at 272p, **Great Universal Stores A**, 24p lower at £11.92, **Kingfisher**, 2p easier at 396p, and **Sears**, 1p cheaper at 92p. In the case of **Marks and Spencer**, steady at 235p, UBS P&D has cut its forecast for the year just ending by £5 million to £615 million and for next year by £20 million to £640 million.

Full-year figures from **Lloyds Abbey**, the life insurance group, were at the top end of expectations with pre-tax profits £24 million up at £318.9 million. The shares responded to the news with a rise of 3p to 376p.

Provident Financial rose 7p to 423p, also boosted by better than expected figures with pre-tax profits up from £31.7 million to £36.1 million.

Community Hospitals fell 16p to 156p after announcing plans to raise £10 million by a rights issue on the basis of one-for-three at 136p.

The hotels sector continued to slide despite a cheerful presentation this week by Kleinwort Benson. UBS P&D is taking a gloomy view of the outlook and is urging its clients to sell **Trusthouse Forte**, down 10p at 246p. It has cut its forecast of pre-tax profits for the year just ended from £214 million to £206 million and for the current year by £40 million to £190 million.

There were sympathetic falls by **Queens Moat**, 3p to 88p, **Stakis**, 2p to 48p, **Ladbroke**, 8p to 258p, and **Bass**, 3p to 985p. BAA also lost 8p to 384p after another disappointing set of passenger traffic figures, which reflected the impact of the Gulf war.

Turriff, the construction group, recovered from its recent nosedive, adding 4p to 67p. The group announced a sharp fall in profits and a cut in dividend this week. But **Alfred McAlpine** lost 4p to 218p, worried about a cut in the dividend with tomorrow's figures. **Geevor**, the Cornish tin mining group, returned from suspension at 11½p after announcing a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million (compared with a profit of £26,000) and a cut in the dividend.

The Exploration Co of Louisiana, an American oil and gas group listed in London, firmed 6p to 63p after a series of institutional presentations this week.

MICHAEL CLARK

Kwik Save, the supermarkets chain, fell 16p to 529p with Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house, recommending a switch to Tesco, up 1p at 241p, or to Asda, 1p better at 129p. Philip Dorgan, an analyst, says Kwik Save has had a good run but faces increased competition. He is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits of £10 million to £95 million for the current year.

AFG accelerates to £75m profit

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

AUTOMOTIVE Financial Group Holdings, Britain's biggest car dealer, which may lose its exclusive Nissan franchise, made pre-tax profits of £75 million, up 17 per cent.

The company, Europe's largest car trader with 180 dealerships, reported its good performance yesterday against the background of a shrinking market in the United Kingdom and the row between Nissan UK, the independent distributor headed by Octav Botnar, and Nissan Motor Manufacturing of Japan.

Nissan UK has started legal action to prevent Nissan Motor from ending its 21-year-old distribution agreement. The termination of the deal would clearly have an impact on AFG, where Mr Botnar is also chairman, by possibly ending its access to Nissan cars.

Many believe Nissan Motor may try to use the 180 Nissan dealers independent of Mr Botnar to start its own franchised network. But the strength of AFG's balance sheet shows that the group has been a significant contributor to Nissan's success in Britain.

In the year to July 31 last, turnover rose to £947.5 million from the £919.3 million recorded the previous year.

Operating profit was at £145.3 million. The group doubled profits on its retail activity in car sales to £14 million.

Dow dips 26 points on Gulf worries

New York

THE Dow Jones industrial average was down by 26.49 to 2,905.69 at midday, having opened 31 points lower. Analysts said that persistent profit-taking amid uncertainty about the Middle East and disappointing economic data kept selling steady.

Bradley Turner, the chairman of the investment policy committee at McDonald and Co, said: "I think investors have stepped back to catch their breath."

● **Tokyo** — Prices closed higher after wide swings. Aggressive buying of high-technology blue chips brought the index back up in late trading after a volatile morning dominated by Gulf war uncertainties. The Nikkei index was up 31.81, or 0.12 per cent, to 26,198.79.

● **Sydney** — Disappointing profits, uncertainty about the Gulf war and doubts about whether the American stock market can sustain its rise sent the Australian market to a sharply lower close. The All-Ordinaries index fell 26.5 points to 1,372.2.

● **Frankfurt** — Shares ended 1.3 per cent lower, driven down by profit-taking after three days of gains. The Dax index ended down 19.81 at 1,567.32.

● **Hong Kong** — Stocks closed slightly higher in dull and featureless trading with investors on the sidelines because of an absence of developments in the Gulf. The Hang Seng index gained 24.32 to 3,492.16 and the broader-based Hong Kong index 14.10 to 2,289.04.

● **Singapore** — Shares closed higher across the board on institutional buying and optimism that the Gulf war would end early. The Straits Times industrial index closed at 1,397.40, up 18.10. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2902.97 (−29.21)*
S&P Composite	365.86 (−3.53)*
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	26198.79 (+31.81)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3492.16 (+24.32)
FT-SE Eurotrack	1038.67 (−10.90)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	86.7 (−1.7)
Sydney: AO	1372.2 (−26.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	1567.32 (−19.81)
Brussels:	
General	5534.78 (−28.80)
Paris: CAC	448.29 (−3.26)
Zurich: SKA Gen	514.7 (−11.5)
London:	
FT–A All-Share	1108.34 (−6.80)
FT – "500"	1219.24 (−8.03)
FT Gold Mines	131.7 (−3.0)
FT Fixed interest	94.14 (−0.09)
FT Govt Secs	85.78 (−0.10)
Bargains	28731
SEAQ Volume	514.2m
USM (Datastream)	117.30 (−0.15)

*Denotes latest trading price

WALL STREET

	Feb 20 midday	Feb 19 close		Feb 20 midday	Feb 19 close		Feb 20 midday	Feb 19 close
Abbott Lab	45%	46%	Enron	56	56%	Oryx Enrgy	38%	38%
Aetna Life	47%	47%	Entergy	23%	23%	Pac Ent	42	42%
Ahmanson	16%	16%	Ethyl	26%	26%	Pac Gas Elec	25%	25%
Air Prods	59%	60	Exxon	53%	53%	Pac Telesis	42%	43%
Albertsons	39%	39%	Fed NMA	44%	44%	Paccar	40%	40%
Alcan Al	22%	23%	Fedrl Expre	41%	42%	Pacificorp	22%	22%
Alco Stand	35%	35%	Ft Norstar	14%	14%	Pall	31%	32%
Allied Signal	29%	30	Fluor	45%	46%	Paramount	42%	42%
Alumin CA	66%	67%	FMC	36%	38	Parker-Hanfn	27	27
Am Brands	45	44%	Ford Motor	30	30%	Penney	52%	53%
Am Cyanmd	56%	58%	FPL	30%	31	Pennzoil	67%	68
Am EPC	28%	29	Fst Chicago	23%	23%	Pepsico	31%	32%
Am General	37%	36%	Fst Intrsta	32%	33%	Pfizer	101%	103%
Am Home	58%	59%	Fst Union	19%	20	Philps Pet	27%	27%
Am Intl	88%	89%	Gannett	40%	40%	Philps Elec	19%	19%
Am Medical	4%	4%	Gen Cinema	21%	21%	Phlp Morris	64%	65
Am Stores	68%	68%	Gen Elec	69	69%	Phlps Dodge	63%	65
Amax	25%	25%	Gen Mills	52%	52%	Pitney Bow	51%	52%
Amer Hess	46%	46	Gen Motors	36%	37%	Plcr Dome	14%	14%
Ameritech	66%	67%	Gen RE	98%	98%	PNC Fncl	28	28%
Amex	25%	25%	Gen Signal	45%	45%	Pnhdle Estn	15%	14
Amoco	51%	51%	Genentech	27%	27%	Polaroid	26%	26%
AMP	49%	49½	Genuine Pts	40%	40%	PPG Inds	54%	54%
AMR	58%	58%	Georgia-Pac	47	47	Prctr Gmble	83%	84
Anheuser-B	48%	47%	Gillette	70%	70%	Price	45%	45%
Apple Comp	61	60	Goodrich	40%	40%	Primerica	31	31%
Archer-Dan	21%	21%	Goodyear	20%	20	Pub Service	27%	27%
Arkla	19	19%	Grace	29%	30	Quaker Oats	54%	55
Armstrong	27%	28%	Greyhound	30%	29%	Ralston Pur	103%	103%
Asarco	27%	27%	Gt Atlantic	52%	52%	Raychem	25%	25%
Ashland Oil	30%	30	Gt Western	16%	16%	Raytheon	75%	76%
AT&T	34	34%	GTE	31%	31%	Reebok	16%	18%
Atlan Richfld	125%	125	Hallbrtn	46½	47%	Roadway	47%	48%
Auto DP	62%	64	Heinz	34%	35	Rockwell	27%	27%
Avery Intl	23%	23%	Hercules	41%	41%	Rohm Haas	43%	43%
Avon Prod	39%	40	Hershey Fd	38%	38	Royal Dutch	79%	80%
Baltimore	26%	26%	Hewlett Pkd	46%	45%	Rubbermaid	43%	45
Banc One	31%	31%	Hilton Htl	44	43%	Rynlds Mtl	62%	63%
Bankamerica	30%	31%	Home Depot	49%	50	Safeco	38%	38%
Bard	19%	18%	Homestake	15%	15%	Salomon	27%	27%
Barnett Bl	23%	24%	Honeywell	55%	54½	Sant Fe Pac	7%	7%
Bausch Lmb	76%	76%	Houston Ind	37%	37%	Sara Lee	34%	35
Baxter Intl	30%	31%	Hsehld Intl	42%	42%	Scecorp	38%	38%
Bec Dickn	75%	76	Humana	46	46	Schlumbgr	58%	59%
Bell Atlan	50	50%	IBM	138%	139%	Schrg-Plgh	46%	47%
Bellsouth	54	54%	IF&F	63%	63%	Scott Papr	45%	46%
Bkr Hughes	26	26	Illinois TW	54%	55%	Seagram	96	96%
Black Decker	13%	13%	Inco	31%	31%	Sears Rbk	32%	32%
Block	45%	46	Ingsol-Rand	47%	47%	Secrty Pac	23%	24%
Bnkrs Tst NY	44%	46%	Inland Steel	24	24%	Shrwn-Wlms	41%	41%
Boeing	46%	49%	Intel	50	50	Skyline	16%	16%
Boise Casc	28%	28%	Intl Paper	65	65	Snap-on Tls	33%	34%
Borden	32%	32%	ITT	58%	58%	Southern	27%	27%
Brist-Myer	74%	75%	James River	27%	27%	St Paul	69	68%
Browng-Fer	27%	28%	Johnsn Jhsn	79%	80%	Stanley Wk	35%	36%
Burl Nth	29%	29%	K Mart	35%	35%	Stone Cntr	16%	16%
CAI	9%	9%	Kellogg	82%	83%	Sun Co	30%	30%
Campbell Sp	69%	72%	Kerr-McGee	45%	45%	Suntst Bk	26%	26%
Cap Cities	467%	465	Kimbly-Clrk	89	89%	Super Valu	26%	27
Capital HC	45%	45%	Knght-Rddr	49%	49%	SW Bell	55%	56%
Carolina	47%	47%	Lilly	80%	81%	Syntex	70%	70%
Caterpillar	50%	51%	Limited	23%	24	Sysco	37%	37%
CBS	166	167%	Lin Brdcstg	65%	67	Tandem	14%	15%
Central SW	44%	44%	Lincln Nat	49%	50	Tandy	31%	32
Champion	30	30%	Litton Ind	83%	84%	Tele-comm	15%	15%
Chase Man	14%	14%	Lockheed	39%	40%	Teledyne	22%	22%
Chem Bnkg	16%	16%	Louis-Pac	32%	32%	Temple-In	37%	37%
Chevron	71%	72%	Manu Hano	23%	25	Tenneco	48%	49%
Chrysler	12%	12%	Marriott	18%	18	Texaco	60%	60%
Chubb	69%	69%	Marsh Mclen	77%	76%	Texas Inst	40%	40%
Cigna	48%	49%	Martin Mar	49%	50	Texas Util	37%	36%
Citicorp	15%	16%	Masco	21%	22%	Textron	30%	30%
Clbrne Liz	41%	41%	May Dept	51%	51%	Time Wrnr	110%	108%
Clorox	37%	38%	Maytag	13%	13%	Times Mirr	30%	30%
Cmwlth Edis	38%	38%	MCA	n/a	n/a	Timken	28	27%
CNA Fincl	88%	88%	McDnl Doug	44%	45%	Torchmark	54½	54
Coastal	32	32	McDonalds	31½	32%	Toys R Us	28	28%
Coca-Cola	51%	52%	McGraw-Hill	58%	58	Transam	36%	36%
Colgate-Pal	73%	74	MCI Com	26%	26%	Travelers	21	21%
Columb Gas	45	45%	Mead	31%	31	Tribune	43%	43%
Compaq	72%	72	Medtronic	106%	108	TRW	42%	42%
Conagra	41%	41%	Melville	48	48%	Tyco Lab	45%	46%
Cons Edis	24%	24%	Merck	101%	102%	UAL	139	138%
Cons NG	43%	43%	Merll Lynch	28%	29%	Un Camp	43%	43%
Cons Rail	49%	49%	MM&M	88%	89%	Un Carbide	19%	19%
Cooper Ind	46%	46%	Mobil	59	59%	Un Pacific	77%	78
Corning	54%	54%	Monsanto	57%	57%	Unilever	91%	92
CPC Intl	82%	83%	Moore	25%	26	Unisys	3%	3%
Crown Cork	63%	64%	Morgan	46%	47	Unocal	25%	25%
CSX	36%	37	Motorola	62%	62%	Upjohn	42%	41%
Dana	28%	29	Nat Medical	43%	43%	US West	36%	40%
Dayton-Hud	66%	69%	Nat Semi	7	6%	Usair Gp	20%	20%
Deere	49%	49%	Nat Service	26	26%	USF&G	10%	11%
Delta Air	71%	70%	Navistar	3%	3%	UST	41%	40%
Deluxe	39%	39%	NCNB	30%	31%	USX	29%	30%
Detroit Ed	29%	29%	NCR	91	90%	Utd Tech	47%	47%
Digital Eq	76%	78%	NED Bncp	38%	38%	Utd Telcm	25	25
Dillard	101%	101	Newmnt Min	35%	35%	VF	24%	24%
Disney	118%	118%	Niagr Mhwk	14%	14	Wal-Mart	36%	36%
Dominion	47%	48%	Nike	46%	44%	Walgreen	n/a	n/a
Donnelley	44%	45%	NL Indstrs	10%	11%	Waste Mgmt	39%	39%
Dover	41%	41%	Nordstorm	31%	32%	Wells Fargo	66%	71%
Dow Chem	53%	55%	Norflk Sthn	44%	43%	Westg Elec	29%	30%
Dow Jones	26%	25%	Norwest	24%	24%	Weyerhsr	25%	26%
Dresser Ind	22%	22%	Nthn St Pwr	34%	34%	Whirlpool	24	24
Du Pont	38%	38%	Nthn Telcm	30%	30%	Whitman	22%	21%
Duke Pwr	28%	28%	NY Times	23	24%	Winn-Dixie	40%	40%
Dun Bradst	46%	46%	Nynex	76%	76%	Woolworth	34%	35%
East Kodak	46%	46%	Occid Petrl	18%	19%	Wrigley	57%	58%
Eaton	57%	57%	Ohio Edi	18%	18%	Wrner-Lamb	76%	76%
Emerson El	43%	44%	Oracle Sys	9	9%	Xerox	55%	54%

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
February 18	March 1	May 30	June 10

Call options were taken out on: 20/2/91 Acsis Group, Andaman Res, Business Technology, Dares Estates, FKI, Kunick, Queens Moat, Regalian Properties, Next, Saatchi & Saatchi, Tuskar Res, Unichem.

Put: Ladbroke.

Put & Call: BTR Wts 93/4.

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Arithmetic baffles bond markets

COMMENT

Hundreds of PhDs in mathematics, rocket science and theoretical physics work in the bond and currency markets these days. Their job is to design "optimal risk-return interest rate swap envelopes", "multi-currency hedged option portfolio models" and other wonderful creations of financial engineering. Their lofty qualifications do not, however, include simple arithmetic or even the ability to count. For instance, international financial markets are very confused at present about the following question: which is a bigger number, five or three?

That, in a fundamental sense, has been the issue driving bond and currency markets around the world in the past 12 months and investors seem still to be uncertain about the answer.

Yesterday, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told the American Senate: "The reduction in cost and price pressures has given the Federal Reserve scope to move aggressively to counter the economic downturn without fanning inflation fears." Mr Greenspan made this statement a few minutes after the American government announced a much worse than expected inflation figure for January, including a jump of 0.8 per cent in what American economists consider the best measure of "core" inflation — the CPI excluding food and energy.

Now consider the arithmetical conundrum. When German inflation rose above 3 per cent for just one month last year, Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, expressed horror.

Investors abandoned the bond market in droves, prices collapsed and long-term interest rates soared to 9.2 per cent.

When American inflation jumped through 5 per cent in August and then continued to accelerate throughout the rest of the year, Mr Greenspan, repeated his conviction that he would win the battle against inflation in the long-term.

Investors flooded into the bond market, prices rallied and yields fell below 8 per cent.

Even ignoring the horrific annualised monthly figures that make the financial headlines in America, US inflation in the year to January was running at 5.6 per cent. For Germany the corresponding figure was 2.9 per cent.

Why then do German ten-year bonds yield 8.2 per cent, while Treasuries of the same duration pay only 7.8 per cent?

There are several possible answers but the most popular one among investors appears to be that Germany is threatened by steadily accelerating prices, while the inflation cycle in America has already peaked.

Another way of saying this is that the hapless bond investors who look to central banks to protect them against inflation have more faith in Mr Greenspan than in Herr Pöhl. On the basis of past achievemnts, this is impossible to believe, except for rocket scientists, some of whom genuinely seem to think that America's 5.4 per cent inflation record is somehow better than Germany's 2.9 per cent.

Power bids

Open government is a wonderful thing, but in commercial life there can be such a thing as too much openness.

The government's novel approach to selling the two generators, National Power and PowerGen, by requiring the institutions to put in a round of preliminary bids and so building a book of tender prices at which the shares can be allocated, has been widely praised. It aims to ensure that public assets are sold for what the market thinks they are worth, rather than what it says it might be prepared to pay during the tortuous negotiating process. As John Wakeham, the energy secretary, takes the final decision on price ahead of impact day tomorrow, there is the danger that he has painted himself too far into a corner.

The danger lies in the differing perceptions of Whitehall, and in particular the powerful Public Accounts Committee, and the City institutions which are being asked to bid.

Initial soundings through the book-building process suggested that the whole issue could be sold on a yield of 6.3 per cent, well below the kind of price suggested by the independent stockbrokers, who might have been expected to talk the yield up on behalf of their institutional clients.

The second round of bids brought the suggested yield at which the issue would be sold once over, down to 6.1 per cent. This can be regarded as the rock-bottom price; if the shares are offered at a lower yield still, the City can legitimately walk away.

The difficulty comes when Treasury hawks and Mr Wakeham's civil servants take this as a fair price, because the sub-text of that preliminary round of book-building is that the yield then suggested will be adjusted upwards to take account of market uncertainties during the offer period and the need to leave a little in for the private investor.

Offer the shares at 6.1 per cent, therefore, and the institutions will howl. They will also be a deal less congenial when the next public asset, be it the Scottish power industry or half of British Telecom, comes up for sale.

If Mr Wakeham takes this on board and ups the yield to closer to 6.5 per cent to attract the Franks, he then has to explain to the accounts committee why he did not accept the price apparently on the table, but instead gave up more than £100 million of public money to win over the private investor.

Rover case returns for more laps of Whitehall

IN WESTMINSTER, Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, has his fax machine at the ready. In Victoria, Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, will be aware his staff and department will be under attack. By Charing Cross, Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, will be keen to know. In Holborn, Lord Young of Graffham, chairman of Cable and Wireless, has characteristically got his reaction in first.

To what? What are all these men, who wield considerable power on the broad line which both joins and divides politics and industry, waiting for?

At 10am today, amid the green leather and discreet wood panelling of room 15 on the first floor of the House of Commons, the latest twist will be given to a vexed saga: the sale by the government of the Rover car group to British Aerospace in 1988.

The Commons' trade and industry select committee, already deep in controversy this week with the refusal of Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, to reply to some of its questions over Harrods Bank, publishes its latest and long-awaited into the Rover privatisation.

The report, which took two years and runs to 100 pages, has deeply divided members of the cross-party committee, largely over its criticisms of Lord Young, trade and industry secretary at the time of what he calls the "deal of the decade". Not about whether he should be criticised, but about just how scathing that criticism should be.

Speaking earlier this week to *The Times*, Lord Young dismissed the report in advance, and strongly defended his actions over the sale, arguing that without it the car industry would have lost more than 200,000 jobs and Honda, the Japanese car manufacturer, would never have come to Britain.

At the heart of the report is not the £150 million sale itself,

Unrepentant: Lord Young of Graffham

but the so-called "sweeteners" of up to £44 million made to BAe to seal the deal in its final stages. Sir Leon Brittan, the EC's competition commissioner, eventually ruled they were illegal under EC provisions against state subsidy.

The report will not go as far as supporting some Labour claims of a conspiracy between ministers and trade and industry department civil servants to cover up the true cost to the taxpayer of the sale. But it will sharply rebuke Lord Young for failing to reveal to Parliament full details of the sale at the time, and especially the sweeteners, which were only disclosed when a report on them by John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, was leaked more than a year later, and after an extensive investigation into the affair by Mr Bourn's own National Audit Office.

But the report will carry wider recommendations, calling for a far clearer system for disclosing any governmental concessions and subsidies in future privatisations.

Despite extraordinarily painstaking crawling over the minutiae of DTI and BAe documents by some of Parliament's most seasoned Whitehall Kremlinologists, even some MPs on the committee now accept that a full, final, and true picture of the complete payments to BAe may never be known.

An independent academic-led inquiry earlier this year into the closure of one of BAe-Rover's plants, at Cowley, Oxford, described what is known about the sale as "confusing", especially the political and commercial motives behind it, and concluded that "making sense of it all is difficult because views differ so widely."

Today's report will see those wide differences of views aired again: at least two Conservative members of the committee are expected to object to their own report's conclusions at today's press conference to publish it. Those objections will be very far from the end of the matter. Professor Smith will not comment on the report's findings today because of the high, and European, court actions in which the company is already embroiled over the affair, challenging the DTI's legal action against it to recover the sweetener money, as demanded by Sir Leon.

In the Commons, the all-party public accounts committee still has to pronounce, and Terry Davis, a leading Labour member of the committee, has made it clear the issue still is for the committee whether or not the taxpayer had a bad deal on the sale.

Labour is likely to use the publication of the report as a means of raising again the whole question of the government's privatisation policy, and in particular how far the taxpayer benefits out of what Labour will charge is the government's ideological drive to take remaining state industries into the private sector.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Poulenc suffers from loss in Brazil

A DISASTROUS performance in Brazil and the weakness of the dollar took their toll of Rhône-Poulenc, the first leading chemicals group to report its year-end results.

Net income at the French state-controlled group slumped 52.5 per cent to Fr1.94 billion in the year to end-December.

Sales rose 7.9 per cent to Fr78.8 million, but turnover was bolstered by a merger of the pharmaceuticals business with Rorer, of America, with effect from May 1990. Rhône-Poulenc now claims to be the world's eighth largest drugs company.

Sales and profits from RTZ Chemicals, bought for £560 million in October 1989, were also included for the first full year.

Announcing the results in Paris yesterday, Jean-René Fourtou, the chairman, predicted a 25 per cent sales increase in 1991. He was less precise, however, about the prospects for a profit recovery.

In Brazil, which accounts for almost one-tenth of Rhône-Poulenc's sales, the battle against inflation launched by President Collor caused a loss of Fr880 million.

Translation of profits at an average exchange rate of Fr5.44 to the dollar, against Fr6.37 in 1989, also contributed to the sharp dip.

The belated rush by M Fourtou to achieve critical mass on a world scale in his core businesses of pharmaceuticals, and speciality and intermediate chemicals has, however, also saddled Rhône-Poulenc with a hefty interest burden.

Gearing rose from 70 per cent to 90 per cent during 1990. Although the French government shareholding has been reduced to 58 per cent by stake-shuffling, M Fourtou is constrained in his ability to reinforce his balance sheet by issuing new equity.

A large-scale programme of disposals is in prospect. Rhône-Poulenc is still integrating its acquisitions and weeding out inefficiency and unwanted businesses.

But M Fourtou said the 91,600 workforce worldwide would probably decline by only 1,000 during 1991, against an average drop of 2,000 to 3,000 a year over the past few years.

M Fourtou believes the strength of Rhône-Poulenc in "life sciences" — human and animal health products — should help it withstand a cyclical weakness in chemical markets.

Life sciences accounted for more than half of sales and two-thirds of operating income.

The geographical balance of the group has also been improved, he believes. One-fifth of turnover is in America, against just 3 per cent five years ago.

Rhône-Poulenc's presence in Europe beyond France has also been reinforced by acquisitions in Britain and Germany.

Today, Rhône-Poulenc has 5,500 employees on 30 sites in Britain. Sales during 1991 are expected to reach £800 million.

Some rationalisations and disposals are likely, but Keith Humphreys, the British managing director, declined to give precise details. He said the main impact of reorganisetions would probably be overseas.

ROSS TIEMAN
Paris

TEMPUS

Shell well placed to ride out the storms

SHELL and BP may be as different as chalk and cheese but, as Britain's largest oil companies, in a sector with heavy institutional weighting, they are fated to be measured against each other.

Invariably, Shell comes off better, particularly when oil prices are volatile, because of its broader spread of upstream and downstream interests. Hence the sharp difference in the way its shares have performed since war erupted in the Gulf and oil prices collapsed. While BP shares have slipped 4p since January 15, Shell's have risen from 441p to 468p, lagging the rest of the market by under 6 per cent, despite the outlook.

Do Shell's 1990 figures justify the confidence? Net earnings, calculated on a replacement cost basis, fell 16 per cent to £3.01 billion while historic earnings were down 9 per cent to £3.61 billion. BP declined by 12 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

On the surface then, BP appears to have the upper hand. Yet while analysts expect BP's replacement cost profits to remain static at £1.2 billion in the current year, Shell can look forward to a recovery to £3.4 billion, if the City has done its sums right.

The consensus is that oil prices will remain close to current levels, which will leave BP with hefty stock losses in the first quarter and restrain its upstream interests, which account for 60 per cent of revenue. Shell's upstream interests, however, contribute just 40 per cent of revenue, with the balance split evenly between downstream operations and chemicals. With refining margins likely to remain strong and chemicals heading for a modest second-half recovery this year, Shell can look forward with some confidence.

However, the fundamental long-term difference between the two companies is in the balance sheet. Despite a sucession of disposals, BP's gearing remains at about 55 per cent. By contrast, Shell is less than 5 per cent borrowed and is planning capital expenditure of up to $12 billion a year for the next five years, doubling its asset base in the process, funded almost exclusively from cashflow.

Shell's final dividend of 11.7p increases the total payout 9.2 per cent to 20.1p a share. Earnings of 33p this year would leave the shares on a prospective p/e of 14, with a yield of 16 per cent, assuming a total dividend of 21.9p. A strong hold, even for oil price bears.

Yorkshire Chemicals

THE strength of sterling acted like sulphuric acid on Yorkshire Chemicals in the second half, restricting pre-tax profits growth for the year ended December to 12 per cent at £10.79 million (£9.6 million) on turnover that advanced 16.5 per cent to £81.6 million.

Turnover in the second half was virtually static, and pre-tax profits slid by 10 per cent.

If the pound is not reversed on the exchanges by June 30, Yorkshire will report a drab first half result compared with the opening half of 1990 — even though fundamentally the business is going well.

Short-term concerns, however, are not deflecting Yorkshire from its longer term aims, which include capital expenditures of £42 million between now and 1996, and a series of acquisitions to broaden its range further.

At least Yorkshire is without gearing at balance sheet date, compared with an 8 per cent geared level previously, and currently sits with net cash of £2.5 million. The return on capital employed pressed forward from 27.6 per cent to 32 per cent last year.

Yorkshire's promise that the "greater" part of its planned capital expenditure programme will be funded internally suggests that if the market were deemed to be in a receptive mood it may not be afraid to make a rights issue.

Meanwhile the year's total dividend payment, which rises from 12p to 13.5p a share, with a final 9p (8.5p) payment, led to disappointment in some quarters.

Yorkshire looks as if it is having to run hard to stand still this financial year. Already, 1991 City estimates have been trimmed, and the interim report will give a clearer indication of how margins are holding up. The group may do well to turn in pre-tax profits of £10 million.

The shares fell 10p yesterday to 363p, a level where they trade on 10.6 times prospective earnings. Because they have been strong performers of late, they could now drift while the currency boat remains rocky.

Abbey Life

ON THE eve of the banks' reporting season, Lloyds Abbey Life results for last year provide a ray of hope against the dark clouds of bad debts.

Pre-tax profits of the financial services group rose 8 per cent to £319 million, after a particularly strong performance from its expanding life assurance subsidiaries.

The profit figures from Lloyds Abbey's life businesses rose 19 per cent to £265 million, but appear to have been flattered through the company's embedded value accounting methods.

This shows up in the transfer from the life fund to the profit and loss account, which has soared by 146 per cent to £64.2 million. First, there is an unquantified boost arising from the life fund surplus, part of which has been transferred in response to last year's Budget ruling.

The transfer was also flattered by an increase in charges on unit linked policies in Abbey Life and in Black Horse Financial Services. Both these changes are one-off gains.

In spite of the accountancy quirks and one-off gains, the growth in Black Horse Financial Services, the subsidiary which sells to Lloyds Bank customers, is undeniable. It sold 170,000 policies in the year, a market share of 13 per cent. Michael Hepher, the chairman, is confident this can increase to more than 40 per cent as the sales force grows.

The group was also aided by a turnround in Black Horse Agencies, the estate agency chain. This made a profit of £12.7 million, compared with a £5.3 million loss last year, due to strict cost control.

The fly in the ointment was Lloyds Bowmaker, the finance house. Profits fell by 41 per cent to £32.4 million as bad debts increased to £70.4 million (£26.5 million). This type of fluctuation is inevitable in a cyclical business like consumer finance and justifies Lloyds Abbey's desire to reduce its dependence on its non-life operations.

Lloyds Abbey's profits will be included in the figures from Lloyds Bank, its 60 per cent shareholder, tomorrow, and prop up the dire results from the bank's lending business.

Lloyds Abbey is holding its dividend at 17p until earnings improve. Group profits could reach £350 million this year which puts the shares, at 377p, on a p/e ratio of 11 and a yield of 6 per cent. Reasonable, but no bargain.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fred is firm on fees

FRED Carr, one of the few remaining colourful City characters, looks set to stay in the Square Mile for a little while longer. For Carr, aged 45, and so called ever since his days at Eton because of his resemblence, first thing in the morning, to Fred Flintstone, has been promoted from business development director to chief executive of W I Carr (Investments), the division of the Banque Indosuez subsidiary that deals with all private client investment as well as charities, trusts and some pension funds. Carr, no relation to the W I Carr founder, and a firm believer in the old City motto "My word is my bond", replaces John Yeldham, aged 52, who, at his own request, will now concentrate on looking after clients and working more from the firm's office in Farnham, Surrey, since it is only three miles from his home in the village of Tilford. Carr, previously a partner and then marketing director at Capel-Cure Myers, has already wrought some changes. He has introduced a fee-based payment structure for private client work, rather than relying entirely on commissions. Those fees, which he describes as "modest" by City standards, start at £350 for fully discretionary portfolio management. "I'm in favour of fees rather than relying solely on commission because one doesn't want to be dependent upon doing business in order to stay in business," says Carr. "To lift a phrase from the Watergate trial, one has to make sure that there is no external metal influence on one's magnetic compass."

BALANCING the books. The American state of Michigan is so short of cash that it is selling the governor's personal helicopter, worth almost £1 million It will save the jobs of 25 state troopers.

Tied up, not down

VALENTINE'S Day has come and gone but, in the hectic world of corporate tussles, romance is never far away. Perhaps that is why KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, has drawn up a guide to the perfect merger which would do many a marriage counsellor proud. The epic, bold and imaginative by accountancy standards, advises companies to "look around and play the field", rather than just courting the boy or girl next door. "Don't rush down the aisle", it says, while adding, not unexpectedly, that the help of a professional matchmaker can make all the difference to a romance. "Too many people rush into European mergers for instance," says Richard Agutter, chairman of KPMG's international mergers and acquisitions network, who adds that the recession has not killed off demand for cross-border ventures. "There was a drop-off during the last quarter, but we are getting to the bottom of the cycle," he says. Last year British companies made 503 such deals in the so-called middle market with a value of up to $100 million each.

"Officially I'm in recession"

Exchanges nailed

ANDREW Hugh Smith, chairman of the International Stock Exchange, has wasted little time putting his cost-cutting measures into action. The stock exchanges in Bristol, Newcastle and Liverpool are to close next month, taking a handful of jobs and many more memories with them. The demise of the Bristol floor may bring a tear to the eye of Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, since it was there that Berni Inns, later to become part of the food and drink group, first came to the market. "Many big companies were listed here for the first time," says Peter Barrow, manager of the branch for the past 12 years, who adds that the exchange found a new role as a settlement centre after declining in importance in the early Sixties. The building was built in 1903 by Sir George White, the founder of Bristol Omnibus Company which went on to become part of British Aerospace. Its neighbour, the Corn Exchange, is better known for the nails outside its entrance on which traders used to hang banknotes, hence coining the phrase "to pay on the nail".

A PHILOSOPHICAL note from the Wyoming Trucker, *published in America: "One good thing about getting old is that insurance representatives stop bothering you."*

Marsh wades in

OCTAV Botnar, who made a fortune importing Japanese cars to Britain, is squaring off for a lengthy court battle with Nissan, the Japanese car maker. Nissan, which has invested heavily in Britain and is attempting to buy out Nissan UK from Botnar, who expects big compensation, is making sure it has some heavyweights on its side in the fight. It has appointed former transport minister Richard Marsh as special British adviser — a post he held from 1981 until 1988 and one which led to the construction of a £700 million Nissan factory in Tyne & Wear. When it comes to transport problems, Marsh is good as any at coping. He is a former chairman of British Rail.

CAROL LEONARD

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Final dividend 1990

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 14th March, 1991 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1990 of 11.7p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 16th May, 1991 the dividend will be paid on 20th May, 1991.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar:- Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA, not later than 3pm on 14th March, 1991.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 185 which must be deposited for examination at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 11 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3LB, at least five clear days before payment is required (the required date cannot be prior to the 20th May, 1991) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75008, Paris.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. A. Cunliffe
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
20th February, 1991

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Newmark (Louis)	Electricals	
2	Watts Blake	Building,Roads	
3	Welsh Water	Water	
4	Proudfoot Alexander	Industrials L-R	
5	Logica	Electricals	
6	Scholes Grp	Electricals	
7	Brown & Tawse	Industrials A-D	
8	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals,Plas	
9	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
10	Leigh	Chemicals,Plas	
11	Wessex Water	Water	
12	News Corp	Newspapers,Pub	
13	Linton Park	Industrials L-R	
14	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	
15	THORN EMI	Electricals	
16	Estates Gen	Property	
17	Aegis Gp	Paper,Print,Adv	
18	Exp Comp Louisiana	Oil,Gas	
19	Metalrax	Industrials L-R	
20	Ricardo Intl	Industrials L-R	
21	Bemrose	Paper,Print,Adv	
22	Severn Trent	Water	
23	Northumbrian	Water	
24	Harris (Philip)	Industrials E-K	
25	Lon Intl	Industrials L-R	
26	Clyde Pet	Oil,Gas	
27	Time Products	Drapery,Stores	
28	Sthrn Water	Water	
29	Cater Allen	Banks,Discount	
30	Egerton Trust	Property	
31	Rentokil	Chemicals,Plas	
32	McKechnie	Industrials L-R	
33	Waddington (J)	Paper,Print,Adv	
34	Microgen	Electricals	
35	Domino	Electricals	
36	More O'Ferrall	Paper,Print,Adv	
37	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
38	Brammer	Industrials A-D	
39	Gleeson (MJ)	Building,Roads	
40	First Nat Fin	Banks,Discount	
41	Alumasc	Industrials A-D	
42	Rank Org	Industrials L-R	
43	Wilson Bowden	Building,Roads	
44	Allied Text	Textiles	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Veronica Lister, of southwest London.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Dull trend persists

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 11. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day February 25. Settlement day March 4.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 30

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

هكذا من الاصل

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyons	460	63	70	81	4	11	15
(*511)	500	32	43	57	11½	26	28
	550	9	22	34	44	55	58
ASDA	110	23	28	29	1½	2½	4
(*129)	120	15	20	22	3½	5	7
	130	8	14	17	6½	9	12
Bass	950	70	100	128	18	30	40
(*985)	1000	42	70	97	37	53	60
	1050	22	49	72	72	85	90
Boots	300	49	54	61	2	6	8
(*340)	330	25	32	41	8	16	18
	360	8½	16	26	24	30	32
Br Airways	130	29	31	32	2	5	7½
(*154)	140	21	22	25	4½	9	11
	160	8	11	16	12	19	21
BP	280	42	49	55	2	5½	8
(*320)	300	25	34	41	6½	11	14
	330	8	18	23	21	26	28
Br Steel	110	22	24	24½	1	2	4
(*128)	120	13	16	17	2	5½	7
	130	6½	9½	10½	6	10½	12
C & W	460	70	85	98	6	10	14
(*510)	500	40	55	70	15	22	27
	550	14	31	47	42	49	50
CU	460	72	80	85	4	8	12
(*525)	500	34	52	59	13	19	24
	550	9	25	33	43	47	50
Courtauld	330	42	50	59	3½	10	14
(*356)	360	22	31	40	14	22	24
	390	9	-	-	32	-	-
GKN	330	37	43	48	11	16	22
(*357)	360	15	30	32	25	29	34
	390	7	-	-	50	-	-
Grand Met	650	83	105	120	5	13	18
(*716)	700	48	70	88	17	28	32
	750	20	43	62	45	53	56
ICI	950	75	100	114	25	39	52
(*1014)	1000	35	72	85	52	62	90
	1050	18	48	60	87	90	90
Kingfisher	360	48	56	64	4	10	15
(*396)	390	27	38	46	12	21	26
	420	11	22	32	30	36	40
Ladbroke	240	27	33	40	7	14	15
(*258)	260	14	23	30	15	24	24
	280	8	14	-	27	35	-
Land Sec	500	60	70	78	3½	10	12
(*539)	550	25	35	45	18	28	33
	600	7	15	23	57	65	68
M & S	220	25	29	36	4	7	9
(*235)	240	11	17	24	11	16	18
	260	3½	9½	-	26	27	-
Sainsbury	300	38	45	55	3	7	9
(*328)	330	18	26	34	11	17	19
	360	5½	13	21	34	35	38
Shell	420	45	60	67	5	10	15
(*464)	460	16	35	42	20	23	30
	500	4	16	-	53	55	-
Smid Beech	600	90	108	123	3	11	15
(*677)	650	50	72	90	14	24	30
	700	22	44	62	38	47	52
Storehse	100	17	21	22	3	5	7
(*111)	110	11	15	16	6	9	11
	120	5	9	12	11	15	16
Trafalgar	200	37	42	50	6	12	14
(*230)	220	23	29	38	12	21	25
	240	11	19	29	23	31	34
Ultramar	280	42	52	58	3	6	9
(*316)	300	25	37	43	9	13	16
	330	12	23	28	25	30	33
Unilever	600	144	150	-	2½	4	-
(*736)	650	100	107	128	5	11	13
	700	55	72	92	16	25	28
	750	22	43	62	42	45	50
Utd Bisc	300	70	72	78	1	2½	4½
(*365)	330	41	47	55	4½	7	9
	360	16	25	36	14	19	21
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA	330	55	70	77	1	4	7
(*384)	360	25	48	54	1	10	15
	390	½	28	38	9	20	27
BAT Ind	550	117	125	132	1	4	9
(*665)	600	67	79	97	1	11	20
	650	18	47	63	1	25	40
	700	1	23	37	38	55	70
BTR	330	31	41	50	1	8	11
(*360)	360	2½	21	30	3	21	25
	390	1	10	18	32	41	43
Br Aero	500	51	62	77	1	14	20
(*550)	550	3	30	50	6	35	41
	600	½	12	30	57	68	75
Br Telecom	280	20	34	42	½	4½	9
(*300)	300	1½	20	28	1¾	11½	15
	330	½	-	-	31	-	-
Cadbury	300	60	63	72	1	2	4½
(*360)	330	30	38	48	1	7	11
	360	1½	18	30	3	20	23
Guinness	750	46	70	92	1½	18	27
(*794)	800	1	41	63	8	40	48
	850	1	19	42	60	71	78
GEC	180	27	33	36	½	2½	5
(*206)	200	6	18	21	1	7	12
	220	½	7	10	16	15½	22
Hanson	180	34½	41	42	½	2	3
(*215)	200	14	24	28	¼	4	7
	220	1	11	15½	7	12	17
LASMO	330	27	42	53	2	12	15
(*353)	360	3	24	35	8	23	28
	390	1½	12	22	35	42	47
P & O	500	70	79	84	1	9	14
(*570)	550	21	41	52	1	25	32
	600	2	16	32	35	55	60
Pilkington	160	27	35	36	1¼	4	8
(*185)	180	6½	19	22	1½	8½	15
	200	1½	10	14	17	21	27

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Prudential	200	19	22	29	1	5½	8
(*220)	220	1½	9½	18	3	14	17
	240	1	-	-	23	-	-
Racal	160	27	36	39	½	3½	6
(*187)	180	6½	22	26	½	9	13
	200	1	11	16	16	28	23
RTZ	460	49	57	73	1	12	17
(*507)	500	11	32	48	3	30	33
	550	1	12	-	43	59	-
Scot New	330	57	67	73	1	3½	6½
(*382)	360	27	43	50	1½	8½	15
	390	½	24	32	10	20	28
Tesco	214	29	33	38	1	3½	4
(*241)	233	9	18	26	1	7½	8½
	255	1	8	15	14	18	20
Thames W.	280	20	33	37	1½	6	13
(*299)	300	3	20	24	4	12	20
	330	½	8	11	34	34	39
Water Pk	2300	685	-	-	10	-	-
(*£2365)	2350	635	-	-	10	-	-
	2400	585	-	-	10	-	-
Lucas	130	25	30	36	½	3½	5
(*154)	140	15	22	28	1	5½	7
	160	2	10	16	7	15	17
	Series	Feb	Apr	Jul	Feb	Apr	Jul
Fisons	360	63	66	80	½	2	5
(*421)	390	33	40	57	1	6	11
	420	4	21	37	5	18	22
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat.	220	33	35	39	2	3½	5
(*249)	240	15	21	26	5	10	12
	260	5	10½	16	19	20	22
Amstrad	60	10½	14½	18	1½	4	4½
(*70)	70	3¼	8	12	4½	7½	10
	80	1½	-	-	12½	-	-
Barclays	360	36	44	50	8½	17	21
(*390)	390	14	27	32	24	32	37
	420	3½	12	20	50	52	57
Blue Circ	220	36	40	45	2½	7	10
(*252)	240	21	26	33	5½	15	20
	260	8½	15	22	15	26	30
Br Gas	220	18	28	32	2	5	8½
(*234)	240	6½	16	18	9	12	17
	260	2	7	9½	27	27	30
Dixons	140	29	36	38	1	4	5
(*165)	160	13	21	25	5	8½	12
	180	3½	10	14	16	19	21
Glaxo	900	62	103	134	15	29	39
(*939)	950	30	-	102	35	-	59
	1000	13	-	74	70	-	85
Hawker	460	58	70	80	6	18	24
(*492)	500	30	43	57	17	36	42
	550	10	27	35	55	75	80
Hillsdown	180	31	38	42	3	10	13
(*204)	200	16	25	32	8	18	22
	220	7	15	23	21	29	35
Lonrho	180	40	47	50	1½	3½	5
(*217)	200	22	31	34	2½	7	11
	220	9	20	24	12	15	19
Midland	140	35	35	37	1½	4	9
(*170)	160	15	20	23	8	11	17
	180	7	12	16	24	26	30
	200	3	6	9	43	43	47
Reuters	700	93	-	145	9	-	35
(*785)	750	55	-	115	23	-	58
	800	27	-	90	45	-	78
R-Royce	140	18	19	23	3	6	8
(*152)	160	5	8½	13½	10	18	19
	180	1½	3½	7½	28	33	34
Sears	80	14	16	17	1	4	5
(*92)	90	5	9	10	3½	8	8½
	100	1½	4	7	10	15	15
THF	240	16	21	27	6	13	17
(*246)	260	6	11½	19	17	26	30
	280	2½	6½	-	36	40	-
Thorn EMI	550	130	147	-	1	3	-
(*669)	600	80	102	107	3	8	16
	650	37	64	70	18	20	32
	700	13	35	41	37	45	60
TSB	130	22	27	29	1	3	4½
(*149)	140	13	18	21	2½	6	7½
	160	2½	7	9½	13	14	17
Vaal Reefs	50	8	11	13	4	6	8
(*$52)	60	3½	6½	8½	10	12	14
Wellcome	460	55	75	92	6	15	20
(*504)	500	26	48	67	20	29	34
	550	8	27	45	50	57	60
	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Eastrn Elec	140	30	35	38	1	2½	4
(*168)	160	13	20	23	3½	7	13
	180	4½	8½	11	14	16	23
Sthrn Elec.	140	36	40	-	1½	2½	-
(*174)	160	18	24	-	3	6	-
	180	6	10	-	11	13	-
Elec Pack.	1800	90	140	-	50	80	-
(*£1810)	1850	70	110	-	90	110	-
	1900	30	90	-	130	140	-

FT-SE INDEX (*£2299)

	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400
Calls						
Feb	150	103	63	25	7	3
Mar	180	142	105	70	42	24
Apr	203	162	127	93	69	43
May	230	180	155	120	90	68
Jun	—	195	—	130	—	80
Puts						
Feb	2	4	9	26	63	100
Mar	12	18	30	50	75	115
Apr	19	28	44	67	83	117
May	26	38	55	73	95	128
Jun	—	48	—	82	—	138

February 20, 1991 Total: 40155 Calls 28557 Puts 11598 FT-SE: Calls 3329 Puts 3017

*Underlying security price.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr (100p)	102 +1
Brabant Res (155p)	134
CMW Group (30p)	25
Castle Cairn (50p)	31
EFM Java Tst (50p)	37 -1
Eidos (100p)	58
Europe Energy	18
Faber Prest (175p)	140
Foreign & Col	42
Invergordon (135p)	153 -2
Levercrest (108p)	57 +2
MMEC	3½
MMI (20p)	19
Malaysia Capital	28⅝
Midland Radio	96 +1
Paramount (10p)	10¼
Pelican Gp (50p)	21 -1
Proteus Intl (84p)	101
Seton Healthcare	158
St James Place (130p)	88 +1
Smaller IT	62 +1
Stand Platform (225p)	160
Tr Euro Gwth (100p)	92
Trio Inv Tst	44
Utd Energy	1 -¼
Utd Uniform	88
Unichem (100p)	137
Wig Tpe App	207 -5

● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Tesco N/P	42

(issue price in brackets).

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	2,726	Cadbury	1,897	L&G	858	Royal Bnk	1,133
Allo-Lyons	2,866	CU	1,542	Lloyds	5,190	Royal Ins	1,772
Anglian	343	Courtaulds	1,415	Lonrho	4,147	Sainsbury	1,257
ASDA	2,940	Dalgety	936	Lucas	1,148	Scot & N	1,197
AB Foods	17	Enterprise	484	M&S	4,788	Sears	3,285
Argyll	1,583	Eurotunnel	179	Maxwell Cm	595	Severn Trnt	1,215
BAA	2,357	Fisons	1,538	MEPC	672	Shell	8,251
BET	1,495	Gen Acc	650	Midland	1,829	Smith & N	3,480
BTR	4,564	GEC	8,161	Nat West	2,075	SK Beech	950
BAT	1,427	Glaxo	2,997	N W Water	1,059	Sun Allnce	1,781
Barclays	2,569	Grand Met	2,440	P&O	501	Tarmac	1,179
Bass	528	GUS 'A'	304	Pearson	277	Tate Lyle	1,982
BICC	720	GRE	835	Pilkington	1,215	TSB	2,595
Bk Scotlnd	519	GKN	593	Prudential	3,482	Tesco	3,805
Blue Circle	968	Guinness	1,644	Racal	2,543	Thames Wtr	1,210
BOC	546	Hamm 'A'	46	Rk Hovis	1,932	Thorn EMI	300
Boots	986	Hanson	8,595	Rank	1,028	Trafalgar	1,792
Br Aero	1,303	H & C	1,126	R&C	358	THF	4,670
Br Airways	4,229	Hawker	130	Redland	689	Ultramar	882
Br Gas	6,807	Hillsdown	920	Reed	3,268	Unilever	1,181
Br Petrol	6,807	ICI	999	Reuters	715	United Bis	539
Br Steel	5,507	Kingfisher	2,853	RMC Gp	187	Wellcome	233
Br Telecm	3,680	Lasmo	938	RTZ	2,377	Whitbrd	3,424
Burmah Cst	1,639	Ladbroke	3,757	R-Royce	3,624	Wig Teape	2,894
C&W	1,219	Land Sec	1,952	Rothmn 'B'	540	Willis Cor	713

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	638.5	-0.6	11.2	-0.5	11.2	-0.9	12.4
(free)	122.0	-0.6	11.2	-0.6	11.1	-0.9	12.4
EAFE	1099.2	-0.8	12.0	-0.7	11.0	-1.1	13.2
(free)	112.9	-0.8	12.0	-0.8	10.8	-1.1	13.2
Europe	651.5	-0.9	9.4	-0.9	9.9	-1.3	10.6
(free)	140.7	-1.0	9.2	-1.1	9.3	-1.3	10.4
Nth America	463.7	-0.3	10.1	-0.6	11.2	-0.6	11.2
Nordic	1223.2	-0.2	12.5	-0.3	12.8	-0.6	13.7
(free)	199.5	-0.6	11.5	-0.6	11.9	-0.9	12.7
Pacific	2482.9	-0.6	14.1	-0.6	12.0	-1.0	15.4
Far East	3575.9	-0.6	14.4	-0.6	12.1	-0.9	15.6
Australia	250.0	-1.9	8.9	-2.0	7.9	-2.2	10.1
Austria	1462.7	-1.1	11.8	-1.2	12.8	-1.5	13.0
Belgium	782.6	-0.8	10.8	-0.7	11.3	-1.1	12.0
Canada	453.6	0.0	6.7	-0.5	7.1	-0.3	7.8
Denmark	1222.8	-0.7	13.4	-0.8	13.9	-1.0	14.6
Finland	66.2	0.3	2.9	0.2	3.8	-0.1	4.0
(free)	99.1	2.0	15.2	1.9	16.2	1.6	16.4
France	626.6	-1.0	9.3	-0.8	10.2	-1.4	10.5
Germany	754.6	-1.5	10.2	-1.2	11.3	-1.8	11.4
Hong Kong	2206.0	1.0	14.7	0.6	15.8	0.7	15.9
Italy	278.8	-1.7	9.2	-1.8	9.5	-2.1	10.4
Japan	3751.4	-0.6	14.4	-0.6	12.0	-1.0	15.6
Netherlands	772.6	-0.9	4.6	-0.7	5.5	-1.3	5.7
New Zealand	58.1	-3.1	12.9	-2.4	11.9	-3.5	14.1
Norway	1117.1	-1.4	0.3	-1.4	0.6	-1.8	1.3
(free)	196.0	-1.6	0.8	-1.6	1.1	-1.9	1.9
Sing/Malay	1648.8	1.3	13.7	1.0	13.7	0.9	14.9
Spain	192.1	-0.5	17.0	-0.6	15.1	-0.9	18.2
Sweden	1345.1	0.2	18.2	0.1	18.2	-0.2	19.4
(free)	190.6	-0.2	14.9	-0.2	14.9	-0.5	16.1
Switzerland	787.2	-1.7	11.6	-1.9	12.8	-2.1	12.8
(free)	118.4	-1.8	10.2	-2.0	11.4	-2.2	11.4
UK	691.3	-0.6	8.2	-0.6	8.2	-1.0	9.3
USA	421.0	-0.3	10.3	-0.7	11.5	-0.7	11.5

(lc) Local currency.* *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*

Law Report February 21 1991 Court of Appeal

Robbery necessarily includes theft

Regina v Guy

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Pill

[Judgment February 20]

Even though robbery was not specifically referred to in Schedule 1 to the Firearms Act 1968, as being a "schedule offence" under section 17(2) of that Act, when a person had in his possession a firearm or imitation firearm and was convicted of robbery, he was necessarily guilty of theft, which was a schedule offence.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Christopher David Guy, aged 29, against conviction at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Hall) in February 1990 after pleading guilty to robbery of £36 from a petrol station cashier (count 1) and using a toy pistol in carrying out the robbery. (count 2).

He was sentenced to three years imprisonment on count 1 and two years consecutive on count 2. An appeal against sentence was dismissed.

Mr Patrick Cosgrove, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr David R. Wood for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant's advisers felt that the sentence was arguably too high.

While preparing a sentence appeal, Mr Cosgrove noticed what had previously escaped his attention, that count 2 could not have charged the appellant with having in his possession a firearm at the time of committing robbery. That was because robbery was not a schedule offence.

He could have been charged under section 18(1) of the Firearms Act 1968 with having with him an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

As theft was a schedule offence, the crown court properly accepted the plea of guilty. In view of the plea of guilty to count 1, the only basis of a defence to count 2 would have been if it were a defence to a charge of possessing a firearm at the time of committing theft that he was not committing theft because he was committing robbery.

Such an argument would be hopeless in the light of section 8 of the Theft Act 1968, which made it clear that robbery was theft with the additional ingredient of the use or threat of use of force.

Anyone guilty of robbery had to be guilty also of theft and anyone charged with robbery could be found not guilty of it but guilty of theft: section 6(3) of the Criminal Law Act 1967. The conviction appeal failed.

The total sentence could not be characterized as excessive and the sentence appeal failed.

Crown counsel had suggested that practitioners might welcome guidance on the circumstances for adding a firearms count to the indictment and which of the various firearms offences should be charged.

Both practical and sentencing policy existed for including a firearms count. The practical reasons were definitively to establish the use or carrying or possession of firearms either by plea or by jury verdict.

The policy reasons were to deter criminals from using or carrying or possessing firearms by the knowledge that such use or display or possession might be expected to attract a consecutive sentence.

As to the choice of the appropriate firearms offence, there was little that could be said by way of guidance. Since section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 increased to life imprisonment the maximum sentence on offences under sections 16, 17(1), 17(2) and 18 of the Firearms Act 1968, any one might be appropriate to an armed robbery, depending of course on the particular facts of each case.

Solicitors: CPS, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Welfare benefit advice charges recoverable

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Bruce

Before Mr Justice Hutchison

[Judgment February 18]

Solicitors who obtained advice from a non-legally qualified person who ran a business of giving welfare benefit advice could recover her charges as expenses under the legal advice and assistance scheme, also known as the green form scheme, provided the solicitors were not acting merely as a conduit pipe.

Mr Justice Hutchison so held in the Queen's Bench Division in judicial review proceedings in granting *certiorari* to quash a decision of the Legal Aid Board dated October 30, 1990 that the charges of the applicant, Patricia Bruce, in providing advice to solicitors as to their clients' entitlement to welfare benefits could not be recovered under the green form scheme on the ground that it would be *ultra vires* the board's powers.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Nigel J. Ley for the applicant; Mr Duncan Matheson, QC, for the board.

MR JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that on June 7, 1989 the board had informed Mrs Bruce that each application made by a solicitor for her expenses as a disbursement would be considered individually but that it would generally be allowable under the green form scheme.

Thus advised, Mrs Bruce went ahead with setting up her business which flourished with the payments she received from the legal aid fund steadily increasing and by August 1990 her monthly turnover exceeded £20,000 and she had a staff of 16.

The board then looked again at the payments and took the advice of Mr Matheson. He advised that in the present context the solicitor was acting only as a postbox and that Mrs Bruce's charges were not recoverable.

In his Lordship's opinion, where a solicitor incurred expenses in obtaining advice from a non-lawyer the solicitor was still giving advice. Mr Sedley was correct when he submitted that the solicitors still assumed a professional and legal responsibility for the competence of the advice and in point of law it was the solicitor who was "giving the advice".

Whether such a claim was allowable in a particular case was another matter and depended on whether the charge was reasonably incurred but his Lordship rejected Mr Matheson's submission that payment for advice obtained from anyone other than a barrister or solicitor was *ultra vires* the board.

However, there had to be a real relationship between the solicitor and client and not simply the solicitor acting as a conduit pipe.

Solicitors: J. S. Sierzant & Co, Chorley; Collyer-Bristow.

Sentencing on drugs gang organisation

Regina v Kouadio

When sentencing for an offence of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug, it was not necessarily appropriate to assess the seriousness of the offence by reference solely to the quantity of drugs involved.

Some regard should be given to the method of importation, the degree of organisation and planning and the difficulty of detection.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Wright) so stated on February 5, when dismissing the appeal of Eieku Alexis Kouadio against a sentence of 8½ years imprisonment imposed on June 13, 1990 at Croydon Crown Court by Judge K. M. McHale on the appellant's change of plea to guilty of the offence.

MR JUSTICE WRIGHT said that the drug was to be imported concealed in the courier's body. That was a method of importation which was exceptionally difficult to detect, the quantity of drugs involved was necessarily limited, and the organisers had to recruit a large number of couriers.

In those circumstances the sentence imposed must be one which would deter others from engaging in such activities.

Cause of flood is relevant

Computer & Systems Engineering plc v John Lelliott (Ilford) Ltd and Another

Damage to a property caused by the escape of water from a fractured sprinkler system pipe was not damage caused by "flood" or "bursting . . . of . . . pipes" within the meaning of clause 22C:1.3 of the JCT Standard Building Contract (1980 edition).

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Beldam) so stated on December 5, in dismissing an appeal by the second defendants, E. W. G. Stoddard Ltd, from the decision of Judge Iain Black sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* May 23, 1989).

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that in the context of the present contract "flood" imported the invasion of the property by a large volume of water caused by a rapid accumulation or sudden release of water from an external source, usually but not necessarily confined to the result of a natural phenomenon such as a storm, tempest or downpour.

The bursting of tanks, apparatus or pipes was confined to the rupture of tanks, apparatus or pipes from within, typically caused by the exertion of forces such as expansion or pressure within the vessel or pipe itself.

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General	158.7	169.7●	+0.4	2.95
Japan	82.92	88.37	+0.12	0.00
UK Gth Inc	89.49	95.71	+0.79	2.98
Do Acc	138.4	148.0	+1.3	2.98
US Emerg Cos	51.16	54.71	+0.28	0.00
Income/Gth	285.8	305.6	+1.9	3.35
Masterist Acc	81.48	87.14	+0.60	2.85
Am Inc	41.54	44.42●	+0.25	7.18
Ethical	44.16	47.22	+0.28	2.12
AETRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800 833580				
30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ Tel: 071-374 6801				
Am Inc/Gth	25.84	27.45	+0.24	2.91
Euro	67.41	71.63●	+0.39	0.00
Euro Inc	71.20	75.11●	+0.48	1.63
Exmpt	708.8	732.1●	-1.7	3.17
Extra Inc	38.23	40.80c	+0.16	6.06
F/E Emerg Co	45.28	48.50	+0.85	1.32
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL Tel: 0793 514514 dealing:0793 610366				
High Inc	338.9	358.7c	-1.8	5.64
Equity Inc	179.7	191.3●	-0.8	5.64
High Yield	180.9	202.2	-0.5	5.69
Balanced	491.0	522.9	-1.0	3.85
Am Inc	28.84	30.71●	+0.02	4.02
World Ass Val	29.33	31.23	+0.24	1.57
Japan	128.0	135.5	-0.9	0.01
Sec of Am	248.3	262.3	+0.8	0.58
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 081-534 5544				
Capit	83.03	89.20●	..	4.21
Euro Gth Inc	89.86	95.65	+2.33	2.00
Extra Inc	89.88	96.13	+0.53	7.02
General	188.0	198.9	+1.1	4.30
Gt/Fxd Income	50.29	52.10●	+0.08	10.39
Inc Trust	405.5	433.7●	+3.1	6.45
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ Tel: 081-658 9002				
Amer Gth	54.75	57.97●	+0.29	1.10
Am Sm Cos	58.27	61.88	+0.38	1.00
Australia	47.85	51.54	+0.35	2.60
Convertible	40.28	44.72	+0.47	7.50
East	111.9	120.2c	+1.1	1.20
Equity Inc	83.18	74.75	+0.05	5.70
Euro Gth	171.9	182.0	+0.7	2.30
Euro Smlr Cos	146.5	155.7	+1.7	0.20
Europe	82.34	64.27●	..	4.10
German Gth	46.58	49.58	+0.38	0.00
Global Gth	70.22	74.84	+0.29	0.10
Jap Gth	153.9	164.7●	-0.2	0.00
Jap Sunrise	126.4	134.9	-0.4	0.00

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Sunset Fund				
High Yld Eqst	970.0	1000.1	+1.6	6.26
Do Acc	£10.22	10.54	+0.01	6.26
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT				
PO Box 552 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU Tel: 071-626 6666 071-620 6363				
Amer Index	128.7	132.0●	-0.8	2.55
Capit	492.5	461.5	-1.7	4.68
Euro Index	105.6	112.5●	+1.3	2.20
Euro Growth	67.88	72.42	+0.69	2.63
Far East S S	58.78	62.71	+0.01	0.69
Gold Gen S S	51.68	55.13	+0.11	5.62
Income	413.0	440.7	-0.8	6.07
Intl Gth	68.78	68.52	-0.02	1.79
Jap Index	81.54	65.67	-0.18	0.19
N Amer	255.6	272.7	-0.9	2.00
Tiger Index	79.78	81.94	+1.09	2.20
UK Index	97.38	103.9●	-0.29	4.51
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN Tel: 071-606 0708				
Amer Portf	48.09	51.43	+0.23	2.43
Euro Port	57.6	61.5	+0.9	1.50
Jap Portf	41.87	44.79	+1.06	2.26
Pacific Portf	49.58	53.20	+1.20	2.50
Portf	54.07	57.85	+0.88	2.99
UK Inc/Gth	53.17	57.11	+0.37	7.11
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Inv	471.5	475.6a	..	5.91
Fixed Int	134.9	135.5a	..	11.02
Deposit	100.0		..	13.90
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Income	456.5	458.9●	..	6.28
Acc	£15.84	16.04●	..	..
Deposit	100.0		..	13.90
Fxd Int Inc	109.4	109.6●	..	10.55
Do Acc	116.7	116.9●	..	..
CHINA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 123 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PN Tel: 081-663 3030				
Euro Gth	78.21	84.70	+2.02	1.54
1992 Euro Spc	57.80	61.59	+1.33	1.59
Intl Inc	60.39	64.58	+0.59	3.69
NAm Gth	40.64	43.45	+0.45	1.79
Pacific Gth	66.50	71.12	+0.71	2.11
UK Gth Acc	78.91	84.39c	+0.38	2.50
Do Dist	70.93	75.91c	+0.34	3.17
UK Income	61.53	66.12c	+0.62	6.79
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Hart Yard London Bridge SE1 Tel: 071-407 5966				
Back Int Co Ac	58.05	60.94	..	6.01
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS				
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ Tel: 071-283 7500 Dealing 081-686 9818				
Am Gth	62.97	66.99	+0.92	2.71
Euro Gth	77.11	82.03	+1.88	1.75

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
41, Harrington Gardens London SW7 4JU Tel: 071 373 7201				
Endurance	126.5	134.5	..	2.88
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel: 0296 431480				
Eqtble Pelican	98.53	103.7	+0.11	5.17
High Inc	102.1	107.5	-0.44	6.81
Gilt/Fxd Interest	48.29	50.83●	+0.06	9.50
T Of Inv Ts	99.06	104.2●	+0.26	3.47
Spec Sits	89.04	93.73	+0.18	4.86
N Am	62.65	66.96	+0.15	1.38
Far East	153.9	161.9	+0.73	1.64
Intl Gth	65.72	73.39	+0.28	3.04
Euro	53.67	55.71	+0.31	2.03
Smlr Cos	47.83	50.35	-0.02	6.67
EQUITY & LAW				
St. George Hse Corporation St. Coventry CV1 1GD Tel: 0203 553231				
UK Gth Accum	234.4	249.4	+1.2	4.04
Do Inc	178.8	190.3	+0.8	4.04
Higher Inc Acc	418.6	440.1	+1.0	5.85
Do Inc	280.0	297.9	+0.6	5.85
Gilts/Fxd Acc	133.1	140.2e	+0.3	8.90
Do Inc	82.75	87.11c	+0.18	8.90
N America	130.8	139.2	+0.7	0.00
Far East	203.0	216.0	-0.2	1.12
Europe	194.8	207.4	+0.7	0.49
Genl	330.3	351.4	+1.3	4.13
Genl Acc	323.1	343.8	+1.2	4.13
Br Excellence	48.69	51.80	+0.01	3.77
Br Fdmtls Inc	54.21	57.67	-0.05	7.10
Do Acc	62.84	66.82	-0.06	7.10
Global Ops	50.17	53.38	+0.29	0.66
FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
190, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel: 041-332 3132				
Balan Gth Acc	71.48	76.45	..	3.15
Do Inc	67.94	72.67	..	3.15
High Yield Acc	38.30	40.96	..	5.12
Do Inc	30.96	33.11	..	5.12
Inc Gth Acc	59.42	63.55	..	5.38
Do Inc	43.58	46.59	..	5.38
Service Co Acc	57.69	61.70	..	2.85
Do Inc	55.42	59.27	..	2.85
Am Gth Acc	26.07	27.89●	..	2.11
Do Inc	25.58	27.33●	..	2.11
Euro Gth Acc	24.97	26.71c	..	1.43
Do Inc	24.50	26.21c	..	1.43
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0800 414161				
American	130.4	137.9	+1.0	0.00
Am Equity Inc	27.09	28.89●	+0.20	4.09
Am Spec Sits	55.95	59.19	+0.39	0.00
ASEAN	18.13	19.34	+0.22	0.00
Cash Unit	125.77		●+0.03	14.14
European	94.37	100.6	+0.62	0.00
Euro Inc	26.98	28.64●	+0.26	3.48
Global Conv	18.19	18.46	+0.19	6.82
Far East Inc	33.29	35.34	+0.17	3.46
FOREIGN & COLONIAL				
8th Floor, Exchange Hse Primrose Street London EC2A 2NY Tel: 071-628 8000				

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
UK Income	32.16	34.40	+0.24	7.28
Do Gth	30.29	32.39	+0.19	2.89
W'wide	21.68	23.19	+0.12	1.07
NM ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED				
Income	123.8	132.2	+0.23	4.98
Japan	175.4	185.6●	+0.05	0.03
Major UK Co.	73.58	79.26	+0.17	3.60
Smlr Aus	44.23	47.56c	+1.15	4.09
Amer Inc	295.3	315.4●	+2.06	1.95
Do Acc	336.0	351.6	+2.38	1.86
Smlr Cos	164.2	180.6c	+1.39	4.23
Smlr Canada	33.57	38.91	+0.54	0.71
Smlr Euro Cos	193.8	207.4	+4.10	2.06
SAVE & PROSPER				
TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Amer Inc	117.0	124.5	+0.86	0.41
Do Acc	127.9	136.1	+0.94	0.41
Br Gth Inc	69.80	74.25	+0.11	3.59
Do Acc	77.17	82.09	+0.12	3.59
Euro Inc	70.47	74.96●	+1.35	1.15
Do Acc	73.02	77.68●	+1.40	1.15
Extra Inc Inc	150.3	159.9●	+0.09	5.82
Pacific Basin	24.25	25.82	+0.31	0.60
Canadian Gth	31.91	33.94	+0.16	0.10
Global Bond	£101.9	108.2c	-0.16	7.15
Penny Share	19.30	20.66	+0.05	0.50
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
2 Honey La EC2 8BT Tel: 071-606 3132				
City Res	52.58	52.59	+0.01	13.74
Gilt Gth	52.50	53.35	+0.09	2.83
Gilt Inc	48.0	50.0	+0.1	10.75
Shrt Dad Gilt	90.92	92.10	+0.10	4.45
US Govt Bond	£63.70	64.52	-0.05	0.00
Challenger	65.52	67.05	-0.03	0.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Oak Square Swanley BR8 7AG Tel: 0708 369048				
Stockmkt Fnd	47.04	50.05	+0.05	4.00

The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

** Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) ● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
76	56	Wencasa	53	58	–	4.1	7.3	9.4
30	12	Wentworth	15	18	–	–	–	5.6
86	27	Wescol	34	38	–	2.0	5.7	19.7
23	3	Westport	4	5	–	0.6	17.8	3.2
135	33	West Scaffold	38	43	–	6.7	16.3	4.4
22	5	Wharfdale	6½	7	–	–	–	92.9
75	29	Widney Mackay	27	30	–	2.7	9.3	10.4
21	9	Witham (Reg) Hedge	–	–	–	–	–	–
73	48	Wood John D & Co	50	60●	–	2.9	6.3	15.6
55	15	Wld of Leather	13	17	–	–	–	–
195½	121	Wyevale	122	127	–	3.9	3.1	19.4
50	34	Wyko	52	56●	–	5.0	9.3	5.9
12	5½	XCL Sunrise	5	5½	–	–	–	–
95	4	Xtra-vision	4	8 f	–	–	–	–
44	38	Yeverton	37	40 f	–	2.7	6.9	7.5
178	130	Young Group	128	139	–	10.4	7.9	6.1
18	2½	Zurich Group	4	4½	+¼	–		

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
12½	960	Alliance	11⅝	11⅞	–	50.7	4.3	32.1
162	119	Amer Trust	145	147	-2	6.1	4.2	28.5
317½	207	Ang & O'seas	255	258	-4	8.2	3.2	38.7
97	67	Anglo Scot Inv Tst	73	75	–	6.0	8.1	14.5
103	81	B2W Conv	102	104	–	8.0	7.8	23.0
101	75	Bankers	90	92●	-3	3.7	4.1	28.3
176	105	Berry Starq	107	109	-1	–	–	49.3
83½	63½	Br Assets	77	78½	-1½	5.1	6.5	23.2
58½	42½	Br Empire Sec	47½	48½	–	1.0	2.1	61.5

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 94.2 (day's range 94.1-94.2).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Feb 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9480-1.9545	1.9480-1.9490	1.04-1.02pr	2.90-2.88pr
Montrl	2.2441-2.2569	2.2441-2.2482	0.55-0.49pr	1.03-0.92pr
Amstrdm	3.2780-3.2877	3.2795-3.2831	1¼-1pr	3⅜-2⅞pr
Brussels	59.70-60.08	59.76-59.99	21-17pr	55-49pr
Copnhgn	11.1740-11.2223	11.1971-11.2223	2⅝-2⅛pr	7⅜-6⅞pr
Dublin	1.0922-1.0944	1.0934-1.0944	22-15pr	52-37pr
Frankft	2.9082-2.9172	2.9132-2.9167	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Lisbon	253.95-255.62	254.41-255.51	1-22ds	103-145ds
Madrid	180.77-181.55	180.77-181.45	15-23ds	63-74ds
Milan	2178.98-2185.48	2181.76-2184.83	2-1pr	3-1pr
Oslo	11.3635-11.4075	11.3822-11.4076	2⅝-2¼pr	6-5⅝pr
Paris	9.8902-9.9150	9.8997-9.9146	3⅛-2⅝pr	8-7⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.8523-10.8810	10.8523-10.8774	1⅛-⅞pr	1⅛-1pr
Tokyo	256.10-256.82	256.26-256.59	1⅜-1pr	3⅛-2⅝pr
Vienna	20.43-20.52	20.46-20.48	7-5⅞pr	19¼-16⅞pr
Zurich	2.4875-2.4921	2.4876-2.4908	1⅛-⅞pr	3-2⅞pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	18222.3-18309.7
Australia dollar	2.4765-2.4810
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	430.000-430.806
Cyprus pound	0.8325-0.8425
Finland markka	7.0275-7.0875
Greece drachma	310.40-313.60
Hong Kong dollar	15.2025-15.2124
India rupee	37.13-37.53
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.2612-5.2680
Mexico peso	5785-5885
New Zealand dollar	3.2525-3.2596
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3577-3.3815
S Africa rand (fin)	6.3214-6.4291
S Africa rand (com)	4.9613-4.9698
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7830-1.7845
Singapore	1.7215-1.7225
Malaysia	2.6974-2.6984
Australia	1.2690-1.2706
Canada	1.1535-1.1545
Sweden	5.5720-5.5770
Norway	5.8350-5.8400
Denmark	5.7350-5.7400
W Germany	1.4958-1.4965
Switzerland	1.2775-1.2782
Netherlands	1.6810-1.6820
France	5.0820-5.0870
Japan	131.60-131.70
Italy	1116.5-1117.5
Belgium (Com)	30.69-30.74
Hong Kong	7.7902-7.7912
Portugal	131.00-131.20
Spain	93.15-93.25
Austria	10.51-10.53

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 13½ Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 13½ Low 13⅛ Week fixed: 13⅝

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 12⅝ ; 3 mth 12⁷⁄₁₆ Sell: 2 mth 12⁹⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth: 12 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	13⁵⁄₃₂-13¹⁄₁₆	12²³⁄₃₂-²¹⁄₃₂	12²⁵⁄₃₂-⁷⁄₃₂	11¹⁵⁄₁₆-11⅞	
Trade Bills (Dis):	13²³⁄₃₂	13¹¹⁄₃₂	12²³⁄₃₂	12⁷⁄₃₂	
Interbank:	13⁷⁄₁₆-13⁵⁄₁₆	13³⁄₁₆-13¹⁄₁₆	13-12¹⁵⁄₁₆	12⁷⁄₁₆-12⅜	11¹⁵⁄₁₆-11⅞
(Overnight: open 13⅞, close 14½.)					
Local Authority Deps:	13⅜	n/a	13	12⅜	11¹³⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	13⅜-13⁵⁄₁₆	13⅛-13	12¹⁵⁄₁₆-12⅞	12⁵⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	11⅞-11⅞
Dollar CDs:	6.50-6.45	6.65-6.60	6.58-6.53	6.58-6.53	6.80-6.75
Building Society CDs:	13½-13⅜	13¼-13⅛	13-12⅞	12⅜-12⅜	11⅞-11⅞

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6⁷⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅝-6⁵⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6⅝-6½
Deutschemark:	9-8⅞	8⅞-8⅞	8¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	9-8⅞	8½-7⅞
French Franc:	9⅝-9⅛	9⅛-9⅛	9⁵⁄₁₆-9⁷⁄₁₆	9⅛-9⅛	10-9
Swiss Franc:	7⅞-7⅝	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	7⅞-7⅞	8-7
Yen:	8¼-8	8⅛-8	8-7⅞	7¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅞-6⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS *(Baird & Co)*

Bullion: Open $364.00-364.50 Close: $364.40-364.90 High: $364.40-364.90 Low: $363.25-363.75 Krugerrand: $364.00-365.00 (£186.25-187.25)

Sovereigns: Old $94.00-95.00 (£47.50-48.50) New $88.00-89.00 (£44.50-45.50)

Platinum: $387.15 (£198.10) Silver: $3.69 (£1.885) Palladium: $84.50 (£43.25)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 37092	Mar 91	2323.0	2336.0	2315.0	2315.0	4248
	Jun 91	2362.0	2373.0	2354.0	2354.0	592
	Sep 91				2387.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 152242	Mar 91	87.39	87.44	87.35	87.39	23405
	Jun 91	88.67	88.70	88.58	88.62	11284
	Sep 91	89.45	89.47	89.37	89.39	2554
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 43191	Mar 91	93.25	93.27	93.21	93.27	2801
	Jun 91	93.34	93.37	93.29	93.37	3620
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 94010	Mar 91	90.96	90.97	90.91	90.97	5544
	Jun 91	91.19	91.20	91.13	91.16	6380
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 9452	Mar 91	97-29	98-00	97-15	97-22	1340
	Jun 91	97-04	97-04	97-04	97-04	2
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 48352	Mar 91	93-10	93-14	92-27	92-31	24764
	Jun 91	93-27	94-00	93-16	93-19	2478
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 814	Mar 91	97.72	97.72	97.40	97.45	59
	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	97.65	97.75	78
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 111464	Mar 91	85.90	85.91	85.27	85.65	69192
	Jun 91	85.92	86.01	85.45	85.62	3722
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 2441	Mar 91	90.34	90.35	90.29	90.35	191
	Jun 91	90.59	90.72	90.57	90.58	181

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	616-617	Mar	546-545	Mar	187.2-87.0
May	654-653	May	556-555	May	185.0-84.8
Jul	680-679	Jul	570-568	Aug	191.0-89.8
Sep	706-704	Sep	586-585	Oct	190.0-88.8
Dec	742-740	Nov	603-602	Dec	192.0-88.6
Mar	767-766	Jan	617-618	Mar	190.0-87.2
May	787-784	Mar	633-620		
Vol: 4106		Vol: 4076		Vol: 2113	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Mar	125.25	Mar	115.80	Apr	114.0-13.0
May	128.00	May	119.45	Jun	112.5-11.0
Jun	130.00	Sep	104.50	Aug	114.5-13.5
Sep	107.70	Nov	108.25	Oct	117.0-16.0
Nov	111.00	Jan	111.50	Dec	122.0-20.0
Vol:	643	Vol:	290	Vol:	52

LONDON POTATO FUTURES Volume: 116

	Open	Close
Apr (£/tonne)	128.3	126.7
May	146.5	146.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	85.02	137.41	107.53
(+/–)	-3.45	*-24.25	-3.36
Eng/Wales:	85.02	136.48	107.54
(+/–)	-3.45	-24.25	-3.48
(%)	-1.3	-23.5	+2.9
Scotland:	n/a	139.47	107.49
(+/–)	n/a	-24.63	-2.77
(%)	n/a	-31.2	+11.0

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (£kg)

	Open:	Close:
Feb	unq	107.5
Mar	unq	110.5
Apr	unq	110.5

Volume: 42

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm: Iraqi minister Aziz had delayed his response to Moscow's proposals. The oil market took this as a mildly bullish sign.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.65	+0.80
Brent 15 day (Mar)	18.25	+0.80
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.45	+0.70
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	20.60	+0.55
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.45	+0.70

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	223 (n/c)	228 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	297 (+24)	303 (+20)
Non EEC 1H Mar	252 (+24)	257 (+24)
Non EEC 1H Apr	unq	unq
3.5 Fuel Oil	70 (+2)	72 (+2)
Naphtha	200 (-2)	205 (-2)

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL

Mar	208.50-08.00	Jul	155.00 BID
Apr	167.50-67.00	Aug	155.00 BID
May	160.00-59.00	Sep	159.00 BID
Jun	156.00 BID		Vol: 13888

BRENT

Mar	18.30-18.40	May	16.95-17.00
Apr	17.40-17.50		Vol: n/a

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 91	1680	1680	1680
Mar 91	1601	1590	1601
Apr 91	1456	1445	1448
Jul 91	1115	1110	1115

Vol: 318 lots Open interest 3911

Dry cargo index 1654 +17

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1269.0-1270.0	1251.0-1253.0	630025
Lead (£/tonne)	301.00-302.00	312.50-313.00	84750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1180.0-1181.0	1183.0-1184.0	149225
Tin ($/tonne)	5835.0-5840.0	5735.0-5740.0	9835
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1505.0-1506.0	1537.0-1538.0	474350
Nickel ($/tonne)	8760.0-8775.0	8650.0-8675.0	17202

FOX MGMI INDEX (5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Mar	155.80	156.50
Apr	155.70	156.30
May	155.50	156.30

Vol: 343

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Cool Ground may have fitness edge

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

VISITORS to Wincanton today should enjoy the Jim Ford Challenge Cup Chase even though there are only three runners.

Two of the three, Arctic Call and Cool Ground, are on course for Cheltenham and a *crack at the Tote Gold Cup* while the third, Seagram, has his sights set on the Grand National.

With Arctic Call standing his ground, the pace should be strong because he made more or less all the running when winning the Hennesy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury in November and the First National Handicap Chase at Ascot last month.

At Ascot, Arctic Call beat the Reg Akehurst-trained Solidasarock by seven lengths. Significantly, the Dorset-based trainer has not been deterred from opposing Arctic Call again this time with Cool Ground who, like *his principal* rival, has also won his last two races.

Akehurst: exercising Cool Ground on beach.

Interestingly, Cool Ground beat Sam Da Vinci in the second of those two races much more easily than Arctic Call had done at Newbury.

During the recent freeze Akehurst was able to take Cool Ground to the coast and exercise him on the beach whenever he wanted. It would not surprise me if he had the fitness edge on Arctic Call today, even though he could arguably do with a longer trip and softer ground.

Royal Derbi, my selection for the grade two Kingwell Hurdle, would also be meeting all of his rivals on worst terms in a handicap with the exception of Danny Harrold. Royal Derbi should have too much pace for Danny Harrold around this sharp Wincanton course, more especially since Danny Harrold could also be a bit rusty, having not raced since he was runner-up to Forest Sun at Cheltenham 11 months ago.

That good hurdler Aldino should go well in the Georgie Newall Novices' Chase following that winning debut over fences at Doncaster, but I marginally prefer Gold Haven, who looked the more natural chaser *when winning at* Wolverhampton last month.

Royal Greek, from Martin Pipe's stable, can make a successful albeit belated start to the season by winning the Fairyland Handicap Chase.

Otherwise, it could pay to follow the David Elsworth-trained **Slick Cherry** (4.30) and **Muse** (5.0), who are fancied to win the last two races on the Somerset track.

Following that encouraging first run at Sandown, **Muscleton** (1.45) is another likely winner for the Whitsbury trainer at Folkestone.

At Lingfield today, I'm content to go nap on **Abigail's Dream** to land the Hard Times Mares Only Novices' Hurdle. She was an easy winner there last month.

● The meeting at Folkestone today will go ahead. The course, which passed an inspection yesterday, is free of frost and snow.

No plans to ease VAT on bloodstock deals

By RICHARD EVANS

RACING received its second blow inside 24 hours from the government yesterday when Lord Hesketh said there were no present plans to reduce the 15 per cent rate on bloodstock transactions.

The British bloodstock industry fears it will be decimated after 1993 when Value Added Tax becomes payable at the rate applying in the country where a purchase is made, rather than the rate where the purchaser lives, as at present.

In Ireland the VAT rate on bloodstock deals has been reduced this week by ten per cent to 2.1 per cent. Unless the British government intervenes, Ireland will take over from England as the Europe's bloodstock centre. An estimated 5,000 jobs would go by 1997 and the Treasury would lose tens of millions of pounds in revenue.

In a letter to Lord Carnarvon, *the Queen's racing manager*, Lord Hesketh, a junior trade and industry minister, said: "There is no present prospect of reduced (positive) rate of VAT in UK. So far as any change, other than a reduced positive rate, is concerned it would be important to ring-fence it to the bloodstock industry to avoid demands from other quarters for similar treatment."

James Marshall, chairman of the Horseracing Advisory Council's taxation committee, said the ministerial reply was similar to other letters from Whitehall in recent months, but he was not too downhearted.

"I would not take too pessimistic a line from it all. In all the meetings we have had with officials there is a desire to come up with a solution."

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.55 Clos Du Bois. 2.25 Sporting Idol. 2.55 ABIGAIL'S DREAM (nap). 3.25 Doc's Coat. 3.55 Mountain Retreat. 4.25 Drumhead.

By Thunderer

1.55 Peak District. 2.25 Nautical Belle. 2.55 Abigail's Dream. 3.25 Doc's Coat. 3.55 Westmead. 4.25 Drumhead.

Going: standard

1.55 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,672: 2m) (6 runners)

1 22U5 HELLENIC PRINCE 7 (B,CD) J Pearce 5-11-10 ... P O'Leary (8)
2 2502 CLOS DU BOIS 18 (D,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-8 ... A S Smith
3 0011 PEAK DISTRICT 10 (B,D,S) K Bridgwater 5-11-7 (7ex) ... D Bridgwater (8)
4 1343 GREEN ISLAND 23 (D,BF,F) A Dunn 5-10-7 ... T Pitfield
5 F255 CHRISTIAN SOLDIER 69 R Bennett 4-10-2 ... L O'Hare (8)
6 UUSP TISLAM 41 M Usher 4-10-0 ... S Harris (8)

7-4 Hellenic Prince, 2-1 Clos Du Bois, 9-2 Green Island, 5-1 Peak District, 14-1 Christian Soldier, 20-1 Tislam.

2.25 BARNABY RUDGE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,778: 2m) (15)

1 0040 MANHATTAN BOY 20 (D,F,G,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 9-11-10 ... I Shoemark (3)
2 2331 SPORTING IDOL 21 (C) C Popham 6-11-6 ... S Donohoe (7)
3 BP03 KHIOS 9 (B,D,BF,F) F Durr 4-10-8 ... S Smith Eccles
4 5-00 NORTHERN HALO 76 (B,D,F) G Ham 10-10-6 ... S Mackey
5 00F4 NAUTICAL BELLE 7 (D,G) J Ringer 7-10-3 ... S McNeill
6 3033 MY REEF 16 J Bostock 8-10-1 ... D Byrne
7 6a-P NUNS LITTLE ONE 20 J Bradley 8-10-0 ... D Tegg
8 F006 FAST REALM 15 (D,F) D Wellcome 8-10-0 ... A Carroll
9 F3P0 HARVEST MINSTREL 31 (B) D Burchell 4-10-0 ... D J Burchell
10 P633 DERAILED 20 (B) R Holder 4-10-0 ... E Byrne
11 PPP5 WISHES GALORE 23 (B) J Perfitt 6-10-0 ... C Llewellyn
12 550 GABARDOON 28 J Davies 4-10-0 ... Miss S Gladders (7)
13 PPP3 HENLEY'S ROCKET 23 P Clarke 8-10-0 ... T Pitfield (5)
14 2506 SWEENY TODD 23 (B) S Smart 4-10-0 ... —
15 PP0P PADDY'S LINE 21 D C Tucker 4-10-0 ... S Clifford (7)

11-8 Sporting Idol, 5-2 Khios, 11-2 My Reef, 10-1 Manhattan Boy, 12-1 Nautical Belle, Derailed, 14-1 others.

2.55 HARD TIMES MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,851: 2m 4f) (13)

1 F300 AVONMOUTHSECRETARY 27 (F) R Holder 5-11-12 ... E Byrne
2 0P41 PUKI PUKI 9 (B,C) Mrs F Walwyn 7-11-7 ... P Verling (3)
3 P-P3 BREAKFAST BELLE 21 D Grissell 6-11-2 ... H Davies
4 006 BROAD RYDE 35 P Cundell 5-11-2 ... R Stronge
5 000 COURT TOWN 8F D Gandolfo 6-11-2 ... S Smith Eccles
6 6-05 MISS CELEBRITY 9 P Butler 5-11-2 ... —
7 0PP ROSS 21 (B) Miss J Blakeney 6-11-2 ... W Humphreys
8 SETON LODGE LADY 199F G Edwards 6-11-2 ... Mr G Edwards
9 0 STANFORD'S JOY 57 K Bailey 5-11-2 ... I Lawrence
10 031 ABIGAIL'S DREAM 37 (C) D Burchell 4-10-10 ... D J Burchell
11 3366 GREY SONATA 30 (F) C Popham 4-10-10 ... S Donohoe (7)
12 MAYBE LUCKY 33F A Moore 4-10-5 ... Candy Morris
13 F PRETTY DUET 35 W Turner 4-10-5 ... S Clifford (7)

11-10 Abigail's Dream, 2-1 Puki Puki, 8-1 Avonmouthsecretary, 8-1 Breakfast Belle, 14-1 Broad Ryde, 16-1 others.

3.25 GREAT EXPECTATIONS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,847: 2m 4f) (6)

1 4123 LESBET 7 (C,F) C Wildman 8-11-13 ... J Tuite (7)
2 4621 DOC'S COAT 9 (C,F,S) C Wildman 6-11-9 (7ex) ... —
3 2-28 MAGIC BAY 7 (F) Allan Smith (Bel) 9-11-7 ... M Keogh
4 P632 DANDY MINSTREL 24 (B,D,F,G,S) E Wheeler 7-11-4 ... M Bowlby
5 3-21 PARK STREET 24 (F) O Sherwood 6-10-13 ... A S Smith (5)
6 1132 WICK POUND 16 (B,CD) J Old 5-10-8 ... C Llewellyn

7-4 Park Street, 5-2 Doc's Coat, 7-2 Wick Pound, 5-1 Lesbet, 8-1 Dandy Minstrel, 20-1 Magic Bay.

3.55 DAVID COPPERFIELD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,748: 2m) (7)

1 F211 MOUNTAIN RETREAT 28 (D) Mrs D Haine 5-12-0 ... S Smith Eccles
2 0P11 MUKIR 24 (D) P Walwyn 5-11-11 ... C Llewellyn
3 4211 WESTMEAD 23 (CD) A Dunn 6-11-4 ... T Pitfield
4 4014 ROPE 64 (D,F) Mrs F Walwyn 5-11-2 ... R Chapman
5 -066 SILLY SAUSAGE 86 J Bradley 6-10-5 ... W McFarland
6 0555 DAUPHIN BLEU 89 J Bradley 5-10-3 ... D Tegg
7 446 SPANISH WHISPER 16F J Bostock 4-10-0 ... D Byrne

5-4 Mountain Retreat, 9-4 Westmead, 3-1 Mukir, 6-1 Rope, 20-1 Silly Sausage, 25-1 others.

4.25 BLEAK HOUSE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,748: 2m 2f) (12)

1 1300 ABU MUSLAB 58 (F) G Edwards 7-11-11 ... Mr G Edwards
2 614 DRUMHEAD 48 (V,S) P Walwyn 5-11-11 ... C Llewellyn
3 4 GROOMSMAN 28 G Gracey 5-11-5 ... R Beggan
4 2P/ LING 735 D Murray Smith 5-11-5 ... P Verling (3)
5 B000 OCTOBER WINDS 62 D Barons 5-11-5 ... H Davies
6 00F PRIVY'S BOY 30 J Bradley 5-11-5 ... D Tegg
7 P6 SUPREME BLUES 22 J Thomas 5-11-5 ... A David (7)
8 21R- WHASSAT 198F J Davies 7-11-5 ... M Ahern (3)
9 65 GREY GYPSY 7 Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 5-11-0 ... Dale McKeown
10 KASHMIRI WIND 872F J Bosley 5-11-0 ... M Bosley
11 82 LIGHT HAND 17 M Tompkins 5-11-0 ... S Smith Eccles
12 523 ON THE SAUCE 9 M Haynes 4-10-9 ... S Keightley

4-7 Drumhead, 9-2 Light Hand, 6-1 Abu Muslab, 10-1 On The Sauce, 12-1 Ling, October Winds, 16-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Tompkins 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; D Grissell 7 from 19, 36.8%; J Old 3 from 9, 33.3%; K Bailey 6 from 19, 31.6%; J Ffitch-Heyes 5 from 18, 27.8%; E Wheeler 3 from 12, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles 4 winners from 8 rides, 50.0%; H Davies 11 from 25, 44.0; Dale McKeown 21 from 53, 39.6%; J Tuite 7 from 18, 38.9%; M Ahern 8 from 33, 24.2%; M Bosley 3 from 21, 14.3%.

WINCANTON

Selections

By Mandarin
2.00 Andrelot.
2.30 Royal Greek.
3.00 Royal Derbi.
3.30 Cool Ground.
4.00 Gold Haven.
4.30 Slick Cherry.
5.00 Muse.

By Thunderer
2.00 Andrelot.
2.30 Crock-Na-Nee.
3.00 Major Inquiry.
3.30 Arctic Call.
4.00 High Knowl.
4.30 Slick Cherry.
5.00 Muse.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.30 Cool Ground.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.00 MUSE.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good SIS

2.0 ILCHESTER CLAIMING HURDLE (Div I: £2,110: 2m) (16 runners)

1 FR MOMSER 26F (M Baxter Ltd) M Ryan 5-11-7 ... G McCourt —
2 11-0000 STRAW BLADE 27 (B,D,F) (Cosspart) G Ham 5-11-7 ... B Powell 74
3 3-35125 SEE NOW 47 (D,S) (C Bower) Mrs A Knight 5-11-5 ... G Knight 84
4 2/58P-00 EDDIES PELLA 3 (A King) A Jones 6-11-5 ... N Thomas (7) 85
5 MAJOR ELSTON (Cleeve Racing) M Bolton 8-11-5 ... — —
6 00- PEGASUS HEIGHTS 310F (T Reed) R Hodges 5-11-4 ... T Thompson (7) —
7 0F00- SHOREHAM LADY 362 (V Frost) S Cole 6-11-4 ... — 73
8 0523 ANDRELOT 24 (B) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-3 ... M Pitman 85
9 PUNKY KNAVE (Mrs C Paterson) W G M Turner 5-11-3 ... J Neaves (7) —
10 P04334- DARING CLASS 286 (Mrs C Blezard) P Rodford 5-11-0 ... D Morris 84
11 0PP-00P THE TORRIDGE 101 (G Doble) R Callow 6-11-0 ... S Earle —
12 002 TOP OF THE BILL 27 (N Callaghan) N Callaghan 4-11-0 ... D Murphy 89
13 3-0P YORK STREET 82 (Kingsley Holidays Ltd) J Baker 6-11-0 ... S Burrough ● 99
14 00/00U-P AISHOLT 138 (Kampress Printers) K Bishop 6-10-10 ... — 87
15 205 NDITA 30 (S Bennett) R Hodges 5-10-9 ... G McCourt 90
16 0P0 JOKERS PATCH 27 (B) (Mrs Lynne Webb) R Holder 4-10-7 ... N Mann 83

BETTING: 11-4 Andrelot, 7-2 Top Of The Bill, 5-1 See Now, 6-1 York Street, 7-1 Straw Blade, 10-1 Ndita, 12-1 Momser, 16-1 Jokers Patch, 20-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS SEE NOW 44l 5th of 13 behind Tabitto at Haydock (2m, soft); previously left clear last when beating Glow Of Khobar 10l in seller at Newton Abbot (2m 150yd, good to soft).
EDDIES PELLA 46l 8th to Tim Soldier in novice hurdle at Southwell (AW, 2m). ANDRELOT 2½l 3rd to Legal Beagle in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m, good); previously running-on 3l 2nd to Capability Brown in novice hurdle at Wolverhampton (2m, good to firm).
DARING CLASS weakened from 2 out when 14l 3rd to Fighting Days in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 110yd, firm) penultimate start. TOP OF THE BILL running-on 3½l 2nd to Slick Cherry over course and distance with JOKERS PATCH (7lb better off) 13½l 8th.
YORK STREET 4½l 3rd to Proud Crest at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm) last March. NDITA weakened from 3 out when 36l 5th to Miss Eurolink in seller at Chepstow (2m, soft).
Selection: ANDRELOT

2.30 FAIRYLAND HANDICAP CHASE (£3,184: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

1 221212- CHERRY FIELD 461 (F,G,S) (J Kendall) P Hobbs 12-12-0 ... C Maude 82
2 1211-43 WESTERN LEGEND 57 (BF,G,S) (Miss J Laing) J Edwards 7-11-8 ... S de Haan 93
3 1415-25 CROCK-NA-NEE 29 (G,S) (D Harrison) O Sherwood 10-10-13 ... J Osborne 97
4 16F-340 OUR NOBBY 42 (F,G,S) (R Bastian) D Elsworth 9-10-11 ... G Bradley 86
5 511-2F5 GO WEST 24 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs J Dodd) M Pipe 7-10-10 ... — 93
6 0-P4313 SOCKS DOWNE 22 (CD,G,S) (C Cowley) J King 12-10-6 ... J White 96
7 3P/213P SKYLARK WONDER 22 (G) (A Hunt) C Popham 9-10-6 ... — 93
8 13F012- ROYAL GREEK 285 (F,G) (J Renton) M Pipe 9-10-5 ... — ● 99
9 F61FF5 RARE BID 57 (CD,F) (Mrs S Maltby) R Hodges 8-10-4 ... G McCourt 93
10 5U-P36P IMPERIAL CHAMPAGNE 57 (C,G,S) (C Raymond) Miss J Thorne 11-10-1 ... N Dawe —
11 2F34UP ASEROY 55 (CD,F) (A Gregory) M Ryan 12-10-0 ... J McLaughlin 96
12 606/15-F PRINCE OF DIAMONDS 34 (F) (P Gwyn) P Hobbs 8-10-0 ... S Earle —

Long handicap: Prince Of Diamonds 9-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Royal Greek, 5-1 Western Legend, 6-1 Socks Downe, 7-1 Skylark Wonder, 8-1 Crock-Na-Nee, Cherry Field, 10-1 Our Nobby, 12-1 Go West, 14-1 Rare Bid, 16-1 others.

1990: ROCK SAINT 13-10-12 J White (20-1) G Gregson 14 ran

FORM FOCUS CHERRY FIELD caught closing stages when ½l 2nd to Landing Board at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm); previously led from 4 out to beat Focus On Foster 20l at Carlisle (2m 4f, firm).
WESTERN LEGEND broke blood vessel when tailed off last of 3 at Wolverhampton; won unchallenged by 15l from King Seer at Bangor (2m 4f, good) last season. CROCK-NA-NEE weakened 3 out when 32l 5th to Skinnhill at Wolverhampton (2m 4f, good).
GO WEST 40l 5th behind Shannagary at Plumpton (2m 4f, good); previously beat Georgic 5l in novice chase at Towcester (2m 50yd, good to firm) in March. SOCKS DOWNE 14l 3rd to Ronans Birthday at Windsor (3m, good to firm); previously easily beat Bee Garden 10l at Huntingdon (2m 4f, good).
SKYLARK WONDER pulled up before 2 out behind Travail Girl at Windsor (2m 5f, good to firm); made all to beat Priscillian 6l at same course (2m 40yd, good).
ROYAL GREEK led from 2 out to beat King Of The Ring 6l in novice chase at Hereford (2m, firm); subsequently 2l 2nd to Full Strength at Bangor (2m, good).
Selection: CHERRY FIELD

3.0 KINGWELL HURDLE (Grade II: £10,290: 2m) (7 runners)

1 10-2415 ROYAL DERBI 18 (D,F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 6-11-10 ... D Murphy 98
2 115223 STRATFORD PONDS 33 (D,F,G) (R Waters) O Sherwood 6-11-7 ... J Osborne 92
3 11/5122- DANNY HARROLD 345 (S) (Mrs S Robins) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-2 ... M Pitman 91
4 1110-53 MAJOR INQUIRY 19 (D,F,G) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 5-11-2 ... G Bradley 92
5 F21421- SHALCHLO BOY 259 (F,G) (S Burfield) R Hodges 7-11-2 ... — 53
6 340130 WELSH BARD 40 (D,G,S) (Mrs G Abecassis) C Brooks 7-11-2 ... P Scudamore ● 99
7 02-0P04 WINDBOUND LASS 33 (D,F,G,S) (R Savery) R Holder 8-10-11 ... N Mann 96

BETTING: 5-2 Danny Harrold, 3-1 Royal Derbi, 4-1 Welsh Bard, 5-1 Major Inquiry, 6-1 Stratford Ponds, 10-1 Windbound Lass, 100-1 Shalchlo Boy.

1990: KRIBENSIS 6-11-12 R Dunwoody (4-6 fav) M Stoute 8 ran

FORM FOCUS ROYAL DERBI well beaten last of 6 to Nordic Surprise at Leopardstown (2m, good to yielding); made all to beat Aldino 6l in New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor (2m 30yd, good).
STRATFORD PONDS 2½l 3rd to Star Season in Lanzarote Hurdle at Kempton (2m, good) with WINDBOUND LASS (7lb better off) running-on 1½l 4th. DANNY HARROLD caught final flight when 2½l 2nd of 18 to Forest Sun in Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) with STRATFORD PONDS (5lb worse off) 14½l 7th.
MAJOR INQUIRY never dangerous 4½l 3rd to Voyage Sans Retour at Sandown (2m, good); ridden out to beat Stage Player 8l at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) January 1990.
SHALCHLO BOY easily beat Vision Of Wonder 7l at Devon (2m 1f, hard). WELSH BARD staying-on 13l 8th of 17 behind The Illiad in Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding to soft); beat Fun N Games 3l at Fairyhouse (2m, good) in December.
Selection: DANNY HARROLD (nap)

3.30 JIM FORD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£11,100: 3m 1f) (3 runners)

1 F12-111 ARCTIC CALL 41 (B,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 8-11-0 ... J Osborne ● 99
2 442-311 COOL GROUND 47 (G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Ltd) R Akehurst 9-11-0 ... J Frost 97
3 0-32021 SEAGRAM 51 (CD,F,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) D Barons 11-11-0 ... N Hawke 82

BETTING: Evens Arctic Call, 11-10 Cool Ground, 10-1 Seagram.

1990: CAVVIES CLOWN 10-11-8 G Bradley (10-11 fav) D Elsworth 4 ran

FORM FOCUS ARCTIC CALL beat Solidasarock 7l at Ascot (3m, good to soft); beat Master Bob 2l in grade III Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury (3m 2f 82yd, good to firm) with SEAGRAM (1lb better off) 28l 8th.
COOL GROUND comfortably beat Docklands Express 7l in valuable handicap at Sandown (3m 5f 18yd, good to soft); impressive 7l winner from Carrick Hill Lad in grade III Welsh Grand National at Chepstow (3m 6f, good).
SEAGRAM beat Bonanza Boy 3l (pair clear) at Cheltenham (4m, good to soft).
Selection: ARCTIC CALL

4.0 GEORGIE NEWALL NOVICES CHASE (£2,968: 2m) (16 runners)

1 114021 ALDINO 27 (D,F,G,S) (A Boyd-Rochfort) O Sherwood 8-11-9 ... J Osborne 85
2 2221F4 CAME DOWN 35 (CD,G) (Exors of late Major N Martin) R Hodges 8-11-9 ... J Frost 83
3 0641-01 GOLD HAVEN 29 (D,G) (Pall-mall Partners) K Bailey 7-11-9 ... A Tory ● 99
4 233P-6F ANDY BOY 29 (J Connor) T Casey 7-11-2 ... R Dunwoody —
5 25P80-5 ARCTIC BARON 57 (C Raymond) Miss J Thorne 6-11-2 ... N Dawe —
6 P/PP/U DANISH PAUPER 27 (B Scriven) B Scriven 10-11-2 ... A Jones —
7 35F0/1/ HIGH KNOWL 867 (F,S) (J Morse) M Pipe 8-11-2 ... P Scudamore —
8 0000-F INCIDENTAL 55 (R Morris-Adams) Miss H Knight 6-11-2 ... B Dowling —
9 000-116 KENTISH PIPER 82 (G) (Mrs Gordon Pepper) N Gaselee 6-11-2 ... A Adams —
10 351P12 NAATELL 35 (F,G) (P Tory) N Mitchell 8-11-2 ... D Skyrme (5) —
11 0/P6 PARTY TIME AGAIN 21 (Mrs M Hartop) J Webber 7-11-2 ... M Lynch —
12 P-03340 WILL'S BOUNTY 71 (F) (Mrs T Williams) J Colston 8-11-2 ... J Bryan —
13 2061-43 XHAI 5F (B,F) (Darlam Racing) R Simpson 9-11-2 ... W Morris 76
14 /PP-PP0 WELCOME TIDINGS 28 (Mrs R Murrell) M Bolton 7-10-11 ... — —
15 630035 EVENING RAIN 24 (B Rousell Ltd) R Hodges 5-10-7 ... G McCourt —
16 1-21130 MARIA BUKA 88 (G,S) (C Henty) S Cargeeg (Fr) 5-10-2 ... X Cadoret —

BETTING: 9-4 Aldino, 3-1 Gold Haven, 9-2 High Knowl, 8-1 Came Down, 10-1 Andy Boy, Naatell, 12-1 Kentish Piper, 14-1 Maria Buka, 16-1 others.

1990: MALLYPHA 6-11-2 B Powell (2-1) D Elsworth 16 ran

FORM FOCUS ALDINO, high-class hurdler at best, made *an impressive chasing debut when beating Up-A-Point 3l at Doncaster (2m 150yd, good).* CAME DOWN 11½l 4th to Laundryman at Taunton (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft).
GOLD HAVEN beat Dr Rocket 1l at Wolverhampton (2m, good). HIGH KNOWL, smart hurdler two seasons ago, recording latest victory when beating Nodforms Dilemma 4l at Warwick (2m, firm); makes chasing debut after lengthy absence.
KENTISH PIPER beat Battle Drum ½l at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start; makes chasing debut. *NAATELL, course and distance winner over* hurdles, short head 2nd to Re-Release at Taunton (2m 110yd, good to soft); makes chasing debut.
XHAI distance third to Uncle Ernie in grade II chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft). MARIA BUKA good hurdler in France, gaining latest victory when winning an Auteuil (2m 2f, soft) hurdle by 15l in October; makes chasing debut.
Selection: GOLD HAVEN

4.30 ILCHESTER CLAIMING HURDLE (Div II: £2,110: 2m) (16 runners)

1 F-02008 YAMASHITA 40 (F Jordan) F Jordan 6-11-7 ... J Lodder (3) 91
2 P- CHARCOAL BURNER 143F (R Ewin) B Millman 6-11-5 ... N Coleman —
3 *PP04-1P REPALDO 58 (D,F) (D Crease) R Hodges 5-11-5 ... J Frost 90*
4 0/6 DON JACOBO 28 (Oxford and County Roofing Ltd) T Casey 6-11-3 ... — 82
5 PP- CHICAS DELIGHT 425 (M Davies) M Davies 5-11-2 ... Mr R Davies (7) —
6 U PAGAN LADY 21 (D Moon) D Gandolfo 5-11-2 ... B Dowling —
7 001 SLICK CHERRY 27 (CD,G) (H Redknapp) D Elsworth 4-11-2 ... A McCabe (7) 98
8 020645 ST ELMO'S FIRE 44 (B) (Olympic National Hunt Racing) C Brooks 6-11-2 ... P Scudamore ● 99
9 6-5 SYRUS P TURNTABLE 24 (Mike Clutterbuck (Calves)) M Clutterbuck 5-11-2 ... C Maude (3) —
10 00/5-420 SHELLY'S FOLLY 31 (N Jones) Mrs G Jones 6-11-1 ... M Lynch 89
11 00200-P SICILIAN SWING 57 (J Bulman) Mrs S Williams 6-11-1 ... A Tory 91
12 8- BUILDMARK 364 (G Emery) W G M Turner 5-11-0 ... J Neaves (7) —
13 F0P- PERMANENTLY PINK 283F (A Norman) R Hodges 5-11-0 ... — —
14 26-5 SHERZINE 20 (M Hill) Mrs J Retter 5-10-12 ... S Burrough (7) 82
15 P66P46 TROJAN CALL 24 (Oldfield House Racing Club) P Hedger 4-10-12 ... J Osborne 77
16 B0 GLEN NOVA 28 (B Hughes) J Roberts 5-10-9 ... P Dever —

BETTING: 6-4 Slick Cherry, 11-4 St Elmo's Fire, 5-1 Repaldo, 8-1 Yamashita, 12-1 Shelley's Folly, 20-1 Trojan Call, 25-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS REPALDO beat Manuale Del Utente 2½l in Taunton (2m 110yd, good to firm) seller on penultimate start. DON JACOBO staying-on 35½l 6th to Hurricane Hugo at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good to soft); probably capable of better.
SLICK CHERRY beat Top Of The Bill 3½l over course and distance (good). SYRUS P TURNTABLE 27l 6th to Classical Quartet at Plumpton (2m, good).
SHELLY'S FOLLY 3l 2nd to Susan Henchard at Hereford (2m, good) on penultimate start. TROJAN CALL best effort this season when 37l 4th to Bottles at Leicester (2m, soft).
Selection: SLICK CHERRY

5.0 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,189: 2m) (21 runners)

1 BLAKE'S TREASURE 196F (P Blake) T Thomson Jones 10-10 ... P Barnard (3) —
2 HEAR A NIGHTINGALE 124F (Miss C Bingham) T Thomson Jones 10-10 ... J Osborne —
3 0 IBN SINA 30 (Mrs J Ward) M Robinson 10-10 ... J White —
4 P5 JAILBREAKER 51 (P Tosh) B Millman 10-10 ... N Coleman 65
5 50 KINSUE 70 (J Upson) J Upson 10-10 ... R Supple —
6 04 MODERN JAZZ 26F (A Dean) C C Elsey 10-10 ... R Boucher (7) 83
7 2 MUSE 26 (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 10-10 ... P Holley ● 99
8 2 MYHAMET 19 (BF) (G Meadows) P Hobbs 10-10 ... C Maude (3) 73
9 RUSDAN 276F (C Harvey) G Gracey 10-10 ... D Gallagher —
10 004 STANWAY 90 (Oxford and County Roofing Ltd) T Casey 10-10 ... M Lynch 79
11 *TAWJIH 197F (D Willis) M Madgwick 10-10 ... D Madgwick (7)* —
12 4F VENTURIST 34 (H Allen) N Henderson 10-10 ... R Dunwoody 72
13 VOLPEDO 121F (The Crosshands P H R P) R Manning 10-10 ... G Upton (3) —
14 WINSLOW LAD 482F (Winslow Racing) T Casey 10-10 ... J McCarthy (7) —
15 5 YASLOU 38 (M Francis) M Francis 10-10 ... D Murphy 64
16 45 YOUNG HUSTLER 30 (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 10-10 ... — —
17 AGAINST YOU 155F (G Morby) R Akehurst 10-5 ... J Frost —
18 CHESS PIECE 523F (M George) P Hedger 10-5 ... D O'Sullivan (7) —
19 MISS BOBBY BENNETT 155F (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 10-5 ... P Scudamore —
20 NORSE COUNTRY 568F (A Sims) W G M Turner 10-5 ... J Neave (7) —
21 00 TARA'S DELIGHT 28 (M Baxter Ltd) M Ryan 10-5 ... G McCourt —

BETTING: 4-5 Muse, 5-1 Venturist, 11-2 Myhamet, 6-1 Miss Bobby Bennett, 12-1 Stanway, 14-1 *Jailbreaker, 16-1 others.*

1990: IVEAGH HOUSE 4-10-10 M Pitman (9-4 fav) Mrs J Pitman 19 ran

FORM FOCUS IBN SINA showed some promise when down the field in better race won by Jodami at Nottingham (2m, soft) on hurdling debut; fair middle distance form on the level.
JAILBREAKER good late headway when 16l 5th to Goldkrone at Devon (2m 1f, good to soft). MODERN JAZZ 14¾l 4th to Red Ring at Warwick (2m, soft).
MUSE, useful stayer on Flat, encouraging 10l 2nd to Hopscotch at Cheltenham (2m, good).
MYHAMET 15l 2nd to Albertito at Stratford (2m, good). STANWAY 8½l 4th to Oh So Risky at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to firm). VENTURIST 23l 4th to Kibreet on hurdling debut at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to soft).
Selection: MUSE

Course spècialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
Mrs J Pitman	24	84	28.6	M Pitman	13	37	35.1
M Pipe	26	115	22.6	N Mann	4	14	28.6
D Elsworth	34	160	21.3	G Bradley	11	52	21.2
O Sherwood	9	50	18.0	P Scudamore	24	120	20.0
C Brooks	3	18	16.7	R Dunwoody	29	155	18.7
N Henderso	7	54	13.0	J Osborne	8	43	18.6

Morris appeals over mix-up

IRISH trainer Mouse Morris is to appeal to the Jockey Club in an attempt to get his chaser Cahervillahow reinstated for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Cahervillahow, who fell during Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, was one of six horses taken out of the big race yesterday.

Weatherbys received a fax from Morris's Tipperary yard, but the trainer claims the declaration of forfeit was made without his permission. "A fax left here yesterday without my authority. I want the Jockey Club to make an exception and reinstate the horse," he said. "They have indicated that they will listen to my appeal."

Jockey Club spokeswoman Sue Williams said: "The trainer must provide the stewards with the relevant documentation and ask them to reinstate the horse. They must decide whether there is sufficient evidence. It is against the rules to withdraw a horse without the trainer's authority, but if it is incorrectly withdrawn they can consider reinstatement."

Other withdrawals from the Gold Cup, which left 23 still in the race, were All Jeff, Barnbrook Again, Carvill's Hill, Espy and Ten Of Spades.

FOLKESTONE

Selections

By Mandarin
1.15 Bertie Boy.
1.45 Muscleton.
2.15 Patrico.
2.45 Carfax.
3.15 Valassy.
3.45 Elver Season.
4.15 Celtic King.

By Thunderer
1.15 Bertie Boy.
1.45 Cokenny Boy.
2.15 Ganoon.
2.45 DISCO DUKE (nap).
3.15 Valassy.
3.45 Elver Season.
4.15 Celtic King.

By Michael Seely
1.15 Bertie Boy. 3.45 ELVER SEASON (nap).
By Brian Beel
1.15 Bertie Boy. 3.45 Elver Season.

Going: good (chase course); good to soft (hurdles) SIS

1.15 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Div I: amateurs: £1,635: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1 503006- ANOTHER TROUP 316 (B) (R Townsend) R Townsend 9-12-7 ... D Townsend (7) —
2 BERTIE BOY (W Bulwer-Long) W Bulwer-Long 6-12-7 ... N Bloom (7) —
3 54/2/F4- BORDER SUN 295 (P Deal) P Deal 13-12-7 ... S Sweeting (7) —
4 545FF0- CELERY RISE 365 (W Allcock) W Allcock 7-12-7 ... S P Andrews (7) —
5 0030/F- CHANCE BUY 369 (Mrs S Nash) C Nash 8-12-7 ... T Jones (7) —
6 DUNCAN (G Duncan) G Duncan 8-12-7 ... A Sansome (7) —
7 /404/P- LONDON RUN 311 (P Henderson) P Henderson 8-12-7 ... P Shakespeare (7) —
8 2/2223/ MLINI 653 (C Kemball) C Kemball 10-12-7 ... A Hickman (7) —
9 /PU/4- MOTOR BIKE MAN 278 (D Robinson) D Robinson 15-12-7 ... D Robinson (7) —
10 */50PPP/ PAUPERS GOLD 583 (L Gallop) L Gallop 10-12-7 ... C Gordon (7)* —
11 0P/605/ RING OF SECRETS 834 (T Jones) T Jones 9-12-7 ... C Barnett-Wells (7) —
12 P/F00/ ROYAL NAP 749 (W Shere) W Shere 9-12-7 ... P Townsley (7) —
13 0040/ TALLANSTOWN BOY 1552 (S Young) S Young 10-12-7 ... — —
14 0- UNION QUAY 313 (N Pewter) N Pewter 7-12-7 ... G Pewter (7) —
15 ARTIC SAFFRON (Mrs M Tufnell) Mrs M Tufnell 8-12-2 ... Miss J Wickham (7) —

BETTING: 9-4 Bertie Boy, 3-1 Border Sun, 4-1 Mlini, 6-1 Motor Bike Man, 8-1 Another Troup, 12-1 Chance Buy, 14-1 Royal Nap, 16-1 others.

1990: RANDOM TIME 10-12-4 P Hacking (4-1) W Hacking 10 ran

1.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,197: 2m 100yd) (13 runners)

1 6/040 ALL GOLD BOY 28 (J Boodle) G Enright 6-11-0 ... M Perrett 81
2 *0- BRILL BOY 478 (S Croucher) Mrs I McKie 6-11-0 ... J Duggan* —
3 40-233 COKENNY BOY 21 (S Hemstock) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 ... M Bowlby ● 99
4 65 DOONLOUGHAN 28 (D Strauss) G Balding 6-11-0 ... R Guest 88
5 0 I'VE GOT MINE 62 (Miss E Sneyd) Miss E Sneyd 6-11-0 ... — —
6 0 JAKE THE RAKE 47 (Mrs J Peutherer) J Edwards 6-11-0 ... N Williamson —
7 3/63-0 MUSCLETON 19 (M Kingsley) D Elsworth 6-11-0 ... B Powell 89
8 00 RYDAL PRIDE 30 (W Gale) J Gifford 6-11-0 ... — —
9 P-6PPP6 SIR BRENDON 24 (Mrs E Mitchell) W Kemp 5-11-0 ... E McKinley —
10 4 TENACIOUS 54 (Mrs G Chambers) K Bailey 6-11-0 ... I Lawrence —
11 0-54 VODKA FIZZ 54 (Dick Richardson Horse Racing Ltd) J Gifford 6-11-0 ... — 90
12 PP-0P03 GINGER WINGS 5 (D Forehead) A Moore 7-10-9 ... G Moore 76
13 6 PLENTIFUL 57 (Mrs F Walwyn) Mrs F Walwyn 5-10-9 ... P Verling (3) 78

BETTING: 5-2 Cokenny Boy, 7-2 Doonloughan, 9-2 Vodka Fizz, 6-1 Muscleton, 8-1 Plentiful, 10-1 Tenacious, 12-1 others.

1990: DUDLEY 7-11-0 K Mooney (12-1) F Walwyn 10 ran

2.15 WEARE NOVICES CHASE (£2,446: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1 1024-10 GANOON 29 (BF,G,S) (Mrs R Morris) P Hedger 8-11-6 ... G Moore ● 99
2 P/3P-F4 BEST SMILE 20 (Mrs C Matheson) G Enright 8-11-2 ... R Goldstein —
3 3304 BURNET 27 (J Sullivan) T McGovern 8-11-2 ... W McFarland —
4 3325/23 COUNTRY CAP 25 (BF,S) (R Townsend) R Townsend 10-11-2 ... Mr D Townsend (7) 98
5 52-5P40 KELLYS PAL 31 (B) (R Andrews) Mrs E Andrews 8-11-2 ... Mr S Andrews —
6 F21343/ PATRICO 694 (F,S) (P Idris) O Sherwood 8-11-2 ... M Richards —
7 035-110 SOUTHERN SUPREME 61 (G) (Southern Caravan Group) J Gifford 8-11-2 ... — —
8 401-3R2 TRUE LOOP 54 (F) (M Kimmins) Mrs F Walwyn 9-11-2 ... Mr G Oxley 82
9 00/P2-F0 COUNTRY DIARY 38 (Mrs H Bare) G Balding 8-10-11 ... Mr S Mullins —
10 0FPP MONTECATINI 78 (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 5-10-5 ... J Lower —

BETTING: 11-4 Ganoon, 4-1 Country Cap, 9-2 True Loop, 11-2 Southern Supreme, 7-1 Patrico, 10-1 Best Smile, 12-1 others.

1990: COMANDANTE 8-11-1 Peter Hobbs (4-11 fav) J Gifford 10 ran

2.45 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,763: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1 *005420 DROWSY 40 (B,S) (Stablemates Partnership) O Sherwood 9-11-10 ... P Johnson (7)* 97
2 0U0/0-P0 PRAIRIE OYSTER 22 (S) (P Selis) R Curtis 8-11-4 ... R Goldstein 85
3 4/31065- IT'S A LONG WAY 344 (G) (R Allen) C Popham 8-11-2 ... B Powell 90
4 P0-3610 PEAJADE 40 (CD,G,S) (Mrs P Vernon) M Robinson 7-11-2 ... I Lawrence 90
5 051305 TEENAGE SCRIBBLER 23 (C,S) (D Nevison) W Kemp 6-11-2 ... E McKinley 92
6 06-03P3 TEXAN COWBOY 24 (S) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 7-11-0 ... — 95
7 5105/P6 MADFA 24 (S) (A Spence) R Akehurst 6-11-0 ... J Railton 85
8 280-425 DISCO DUKE 24 (F) (Mrs S Weaver) A Moore 6-11-0 ... G Moore 96
9 0250-20 CAPULET 44 (S) (I Fry) C James 8-10-13 ... M Hoad (5) ● 99
10 P-22133 BUSTEELE 29 (G) (D Wilkinson) N Henderson 7-10-10 ... J Kavanagh (3) 95
11 21-3264 ONE MORE KNIGHT 19 (F,G,S) (R West) Mrs I McKie 8-10-10 ... J Duggan 89
12 PPF-P12 BIRD OF SPIRIT 40 (G,S) (Mrs M Scudamore) M Scudamore 11-10-5 ... R Bellamy (3) 91
13 52534-P NOBLE EYRE 19 (G,S) (A Smith) D Gandolfo 10-10-5 ... *P Harris (3)* 86
14 4U0001 CARFAX 21 (B,CD,G,S) (P Hogbin) R Hoad 8-10-4 ... R Guest 96
15 61/F-F0U RIVER BED 28 (G) (R Padgham) J Edwards 7-10-3 ... N Williamson —
16 /0230-2 BALLY FRENCHMAN 51 (B) (Mrs C Fortescue) A Davison 7-10-2 ... M Perrett 91
17 *F615/54- FOUR STAR LINE 346 (S) (F Smith) W G M Turner 8-10-0 ...* Dale McKeown 91
18 0050-00 TRIBAL DRUM 52 (B,G,S) (Mrs L Browning) D Browning 12-10-0 ... J Akehurst —
19 40365-2 PONDERED BID 23 (S) (A Penney) I Wardle 7-10-0 ... V Smith 91
20 510/F05 PANEL GAME 16F (S) (Miss N Ni Luasa) P Butler 7-10-0 ... M Bowlby —

Long handicap: Four Star Line 9-13, Tribal Drum 9-13, Pondered Bid 9-1, Panel Game 8-3.

BETTING: 11-2 Busteele, 6-1 Peajade, 7-1 Disco Duke, 8-1 Capulet, One More Knight, 10-1 Bird Of Spirit, Carfax, 12-1 Madfa, Texan Cowboy, 14-1 Drowsy, Teenage Scribbler, 16-1 Pondered Bid, 20-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.15 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,003: 3m 2f) (14 runners)

1 1FB-32P CLASSEY BOY 36 (BF,S) (A Kaplan) G Ham 8-11-10 ... B Powell 87
2 562-231 VALASSY 21 (G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-11-8 ... N Williamson 91
3 PP-3123 COMRA 38 (D,G,S) (P Deles) G Ham 12-11-7 ... M Perrett 89
4 F0P4-51 TERRY JO 24 (G) (Miss J Moorey) R Hoad 7-11-0 ... M Hoad (5) 83
5 F80/1-1P PAT ALASKA 27 (F,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11-0 ... Mr A Hickman (7) 85
6 61F552 SAM SHORROCK 20 (G) (K Ogden) G Thorner 9-10-12 ... Mr G Johnson Houghton (7) 98
7 0030F0 KAMADOOR 19 (F,S) (D Harvie) G Balding 8-10-8 ... R Guest 87
8 345346 CANTORIAL 56 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Hayton) C Popham 10-10-3 ... I Lawrence 80
9 46/5246 ROBESON 31 (S) (R Bowes) J Gifford 8-10-3 ... — 93
10 *502365 TRYUMPHANT LAD 24 (M Deasley) T Jones 7-10-3 ... J Railton 89*
11 033546 NEVER A PENNY 28 (S) (J Mooney) J Elliott 8-10-2 ... R Goldstein 86
12 1P/PU/P MUG'S MONEY 3 (B,F) (E Clark) W Turner 12-10-1 ... M Bowlby —
13 4533F4 JIM BOWIE 34 (S) (R Butler) A Davison 8-10-1 ... J Kavanagh (3) ● 99
14 04-623P CHELSEA MAN 28 (B,S) (Ash Contracts Ltd) Mrs L Clay 10-10-1 ... M Richards 80

BETTING: 7-2 Valassy, 4-1 Terry Jo, 5-1 Comra, 6-1 Sam Shorrock, 8-1 Classey Boy, 10-1 Pat Alaska, Robeson, 12-1 others.

1990: SNEAKAPENNY 8-12-0 C Llewellyn (5-1) M Wilkinson 7 ran

3.45 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Div II: amateurs: £1,635: 2m 4f) (14 runners)

1 2U4/3- ARCTIC PADDY 336 (R Russell) R Russell 8-12-7 ... R Russell (7) —
2 *600S/3/ ASSEMBLY 915 (K Walker) K Walker 6-12-7 ... A Tutton (7)* —
3 BENINGTON GEORGE (K Grundy) K Grundy 9-12-7 ... S Andrews (3) —
4 332265/ BREENAMORE 783 (C Newport) C Newport 9-12-7 ... C Newport (7) —
5 3/ CARBO BOOSTER 832 (P Morgan) P Morgan 6-12-7 ... N Hacking (3) —
6 60/33P- DICEY TIME 406 (C Cooper) C Cooper 9-12-7 ... T Moore (7) —
7 00/ JIMMY SHAND 1009 (C Keswick) C Keswick 8-12-7 ... W Sporborg (7) —
8 MARTELLA 1658F (G Ingleton) G Ingleton 9-12-7 ... Mrs N Ledger (7) —
9 5F3/ MAURMAX 1606 (R Whitaker) W Turner 11-12-7 ... R Darke (7) —
10 5F/P4U/ OKEYDOKE 659 (C Tilly) C Tilly 11-12-7 ... T Smith (7) —
11 ELVER SEASON (B Pike) B Pike 8-12-2 ... R Alner (3) —
12 MISS MARTLET (Mrs R Farrant) Mrs R Farrant 7-12-2 ... P Hacking (3) —
13 P/3F- SALEAPOLO 276 (Miss V Dibben) Miss V Dibben 7-12-2 ... R Nuttall (7) —
14 *000-0 DONATIST 136F (C Bonner) C Bonner 5-12-0 ...* C Bonner (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Elver Season, 5-2 Arctic Paddy, 6-1 Carbo Booster, 8-1 Dicey Time, Breenamore, 10-1 Maurmax, 12-1 Benington George, 14-1 others.

1990: WHEEL TAPPER 8-12-0 C Farrell (16-1) H Hutsby 9 ran

4.15 HYTHE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,463: 2m 100yd) (7 runners)

1 21600- CORBITT'S DIAMOND 337 (F) (H Joel) J Gifford 7-11-10 ... — 92
2 20-0663 ROBBIE BURNS 20 (D Hunnisett) R Smyth 5-11-4 ... L Dace (7) 96
3 044-1 CELTIC KING 20 (S) (P Byrne) B Curley 7-10-13 ... J Twomey (7) ● 99
4 6662 ANURAG 29 (B Donald) W Musson 5-10-12 ... B Powell 91
5 065-523 NATHIR 24 (A Tasfie) P Butler 5-10-12 ... R Goldstein 96
6 3043-41 CELTIC CHIMES 61 (D,G) (H Davis) G Enright 7-10-10 ... R Moore (7) 93
7 /P/5P/0- MR LION 418 (Whitcombe Manor Racing Stables Limited) R Akehurst 9-10-1 ... J Railton —

BETTING: 11-10 Celtic King, 9-2 Nathir, 5-1 Celtic Chimes, 6-1 Anurag, Robbie Burns, 10-1 Corbitt's Diamond, 20-1 Mr Lion.

1990: TRT TECH FLYER 5-11-4 J Leech (9-4 fav) R Akehurst 11 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G Balding	4	12	33.3	K Mooney	4	15	26.7
B Curley	3	11	27.3	B Powell	5	27	18.5
J Gifford	26	107	24.3	Mr P Hacking	3	17	17.6
D Elsworth	7	29	24.1	M Richards	5	33	15.2
O Sherwood	8	38	21.1				
J Edwards	4	20	20.0				

(Only qualifiers)

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Warwick

Going: good to soft

1.0 (3m 1f ch) 1, EASTERN DESTINY (Mr A Griffith, 7-4); 2, Milbird (Mr T McCarthy, 20-1); 3, Turn Mill (Mr M Hammond, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 4-5 fav Some Obligation (f), 16 Spring Socks (6th), 33 Bridgetown Lad (ur), 40 Legal Wizard (5th), 100 Bin-Em-Vay (pu), Brave Admiral (pu), Gurnwayour (4th). 10 ran. 2½l, 8l, 10l, 25l, 30l. Mrs J Griffith at Denbigh. Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £14.10. CSF: £32.46.

1.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, TEAPLANTER (Mr R Russell, 1-3 fav Mandarin's and Michael Seely's nap); 2, Pepys (Mrs C Wonnacott, 20-1); 3, Redden Brook (Mr P MacEwan, 17-2). ALSO RAN: 12 Konrad Wolf (pu), 14 Tsagairt Paroiste (pu), 16 Touch Of Fun (pu), 33 Late Delivery (4th), 50 Martin Thomas (pu), 100 Grouse Moor (pu). 9 ran. 8l, dist. R Russell at Towcester. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £4.80, £1.40. DF: £15.00. CSF: £8.75.

2.0 (2m 5f hdle) 1, RUN FOR FREE (P Scudamore, 6-5 fav); 2, Jimbalou (R Beggan, 12-1); 3, Yorkshire Holly (P Niven, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Bradbury Star (4th), 8 Randolph Place (5th), 12 Calabrese (6th), 33 Pertemps Network, 50 Auk Eye, Rogers Princess. 9 ran. 8l, 4l, sh hd, 1½l, 15l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £17.40. CSF: £14.55.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, ROLLING BALL (P Scudamore, 7-2); 2, General Highway (M Lynch, 10-1); 3, Kilibanon (S Earle, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 2 fav Tildarg, 7-2 Parsons Green (f), 14 Celtic Original, 20 Under Offer, Kruggeran Smuggler (6th), Miss Muck (4th), 33 Gracwall (pu), Basket Weave (f), 50 Bonanza Rebel, 100 Coppett Song (pu), Matt The Foulkes (pu). 14 ran. NR: The Brave Guy. 20l, 8l, 10l, 1½l, 15l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £5.60; £2.00, £2.40, £2.20. DF: £34.60. CSF: £38.02.

3.0 (2m 5f hdle) 1, BETTER TIMES AHEAD (G McCourt, 12-1); 2, South Harvest (R Beggan, 20-1); 3, Springaleak (J Osborne, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 8-13 fav Tyrone Bridge (4th), 6 Secret Four (6th), 10 Boleney Boy, 12 Montagnard, 14 Super Sense (5th), 33 Bright Sapphire (pu), 50 Rocktor, 100 Woodland Flower. 11 ran. NR: Ballyanto, Empire Blue. 2½l, 12l, 2½l, 2l, nk. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £9.50; £2.60, £3.40, £2.60. DF: £70.20. CSF: £198.50. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, THE WIDGET MAN (D Murphy, 5-2 fav); 2, Sharpgun (A S Smith, 5-1); 3, Camden Belle (W Irvine, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Instant Tan (pu), 8 Lemhill (6th), Papajoto (4th), 10 Segaman (5th), 12 Artful Abbot (pu), 14 Great Aspect, 16 First Crack, 25 Outlaw (pu), 33 Boca Chimes, 50 Forcello. 13 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 3½l, 2½l, 3l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.80; £2.00, £1.70, £8.70. DF: £7.70. CSF: £14.51. Tricast: £167.09.

4.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, SIRRAH JAY (C Llewellyn, 4-1); 2, Bold Lament (R Dunwoody, 8-1); 3, Romany King (R Guest, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Skipping Tim, 15-2 Auntie Dot (6th), 8 Astre Radieux (f), 12 Raise An Argument, 14 Brandeston, 20 Gala's Image (4th), 25 Western Counties (5th), 50 City Entertainer. 11 ran. 2½l, 2½l, 1l, 8l, ¾l. R Akehurst at Whitcombe. Tote: £5.30; £2.10, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £17.20. CSF: £27.48. Tricast: £68.62.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, OSTURA (R Guest, 2-1 fav); 2, Bollinger (E McKinley, 18-1); 3, Society Guest (S McNeill, 14-1); 4, Fairways On Target (P Niven, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Scole, 7 Prime Warden, 10 Makerim, 12 Malemute Saloon, 14 Shamana (6th), Moymet, Musical Monarch, 20 Red Ring, Cavalcanti, 25 Strong Support (5th), 33 Atlantic Gold, Feeling Better, Come On Toby, 66 Always Away (pu), 100 Sneves, Cass Mi Lass, Lonelis (pu). 21 ran. 2½l, 2½l, sh hd, 8l, 2l. J White at Wendover. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £2.20, £3.30, £2.10. DF: £26.80. CSF: £38.97. Tricast: £386.96.

Placepot: £246.80.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, Appliancesofscience (N Bentley, 7-2); 2, Persuasive (4-1); 3, My Muszka (12-1). Wake Up 11-4 fav. 15 ran. NR: Zodo, West With The Wind, Ariel Star. 1¾l, ¾l. G Moore. Tote: £5.30; £2.00, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £10.70. CSF: £17.71.

2.15 (2m ch) 1, Office Growler (N Williamson, 7-2); 2, Was You There (9-2); 3, Mowthorpe (7-2). Clay County 100-30 fav. 12 ran. NR: Sweet City. 1½l, 3½l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £2.80, £1.20. DF: £9.70. CSF: £18.23.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, Bonanza (R Hodge, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Penhill (9-2); 3, Benton Loch (9-1). Landsid 3-1 jt-fav. 18 ran. NR: Hockley, Prince Aldo. 4l, 4l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £4.70; £2.40, £2.10, £3.10. DF: £27.30. CSF: £17.84.

3.15 (3m 1f 80yd ch) 1, Bow Handy Man (P Waggott, 8-1); 2, Galadine (15-2); 3, Nautical Joke (14-1). Radical Lady 7-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Super Fountain. 1½l, 3l. Denys Smith. Tote: £8.40; £2.20, £2.30, £3.40. DF: £22.00. CSF: £44.29. Tricast: £536.52.

3.45 (3m 1f 80yd hdle) 1, Merry Master (Gee Armytage, 7-2); 2, Morgans Harbour (6-1); 3, Mister Moody (9-1). The City Minstrel 13-8 fav. 19 ran. 8l, 20l. R Armytage. Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £2.60, £2.00. DF: £18.10. CSF: £25.75.

4.15 (2m ch) 1, Marejo (B Storey, 11-10 fav); 2, Karannomore (14-1); 3, Cavalier Crossett (7-2). 9 ran. 2l, 8l. F Walton. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £7.00. CSF: £16.30. Tricast: £41.21.

4.45 (2m flat) 1, Dancing Holly (Mr M Buckley, 6-1); 2, Hornblower (4-1); 3, Snitton Lane (3-1 fav). 17 ran. NR: Hazel Crest. Hd, 1½l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £8.20; £4.30, £3.00, £1.80. DF: £17.30. CSF: £33.94.

Placepot: £113.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.55 (2m hdle) 1, Snuggle (S Smith Eccles, 8-11 fav); 2, Land Afar (8-4); 3, Bold Mark (16-1). 6 ran. 5l, 10l. M Tompkins. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.06.

2.25 (2m hdle) 1, Guest Player (A Carroll, 9-4 fav); 2, Hostess Quickly (7-1); 3, Star Leader (9-1). 18 ran. 1l, 20l. D Wintle. Tote: £4.70; £1.30, £2.10, £3.00. DF: £10.90. CSF: £21.95.

2.55 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Singing Forever (Miss S Elliot, 11-8 fav); 2, Five Lamps (9-1); 3, Fiery Sun (7-1). 11 ran. ¾l, 15l. T Thomson Jones. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £7.20. CSF: £13.78. Tricast: £59.75.

3.25 (3m hdle) 1, Big Country (A Carroll, 20-1); 2, Ocean Rogue (33-1); 3, First Lord (7-2). King Of Shadows 8-11 fav. 10 ran. 3l, nk. B McMath. Tote: £16.50; £4.20, £16.80, £2.10. DF: £256.90. CSF: £409.43. Tricast: £2569.50.

3.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Sand Castle (J McLaughlin, 5-1); 2, Penlyne's Pride (16-1); 3, Leading Role (4-6 fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 3l. M Ryan. Tote: £5.30; £1.90, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £40.20. CSF: £69.28.

4.25 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Franciscan (D Bridgwater, 3-1); 2, Howjal (6-4); 3, Silent Ring (5-4 fav). 5 ran. Sh hd, 8l. B Preece. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £1.90. CSF: £8.14.

Placepot: £44.80.

● Rolling Ball and Run For Free are on course for the Cheltenham festival after completing a double for Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore at Warwick yesterday. Run For Free will tackle the Stayers' Hurdle while Rolling Ball, who was making his fencing debut, has his sights on the Sun Alliance Chase.

However, the same team's Tyrone Bridge could manage only fourth to Better Times Ahead, trained by Gordon Richards and ridden by Graham McCourt, when an odds-on favourite for the Coventry City Novices Trial Hurdle.

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Newcomers poised to take over

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

THE fascinating aspect of the 1991 PGA European Tour is whether the leading players of yesteryear can return to centre stage to deny several bright-eyed newcomers a role in the Ryder Cup.

It might be heretical to suggest that Severiano Ballesteros was banished to the wings in 1990. Yet his game did lack its usual direction and most weeks he found himself part of the supporting cast.

In falling out of the top ten in the Volvo Order of Merit for the first time since 1975, Ballesteros must accept, along with other Ryder Cup colleagues like Gordon Brand Jr (22nd), José Rivero (thirtieth), Howard Clark (41st), José-María Cañizares (46th) and Sandy Lyle (59th), that 1991 brings a new challenge.

That challenge is made all the more interesting by the belief that Russell Claydon and Steven Richardson, whose exploits in 1990 earned them high praise, can earn Ryder Cup places in only their second season as professionals, and that others, like Paul Broadhurst and Eoghan O'Connell, can make an impact.

Bernard Gallacher, who has succeeded Tony Jacklin as the captain of Europe, will know from past experience that controversy often occurs when it comes to deciding the Ryder Cup team. He, too, secured a place for the first time in his second season as a professional, although while his precocious talent was deservedly rewarded in 1969, so two other youngsters, Tommy Horton and Tony Grubb, were ignored in favour of Peter Alliss and Bernard Hunt.

Gallacher might be compelled to make similar decisions when the time comes — following the Volvo German Open in Düsseldorf on August 25 — for him to complete Europe's team by selecting the final three players for the biennial encounter against the United States at Kiawah Island in September.

He knows the importance of experience, although his dexterity will be examined should this be the year when others, like David Feherty, Colin Montgomerie, Richard Boxall, Philip Walton, Miguel Martin, Roger Chapman, , Anders Forsbrand, Mark Roe and Barry Lane, fulfil their potential.

Gallacher can expect standard-bearers like Ian Woosnam, José-Maria Olazábal, Bernhard Langer and Nick Faldo to retain their places and Ronan Rafferty, Sam Torrance and Mark James will be equally keen to occupy places in the top ten as they did last year.

Olazábal would appear, without winning a major championship, to have assumed an aura with the Americans as the reputation of Ballesteros wains.

Paul Azinger provided in *Golf World* (US) an "Opinion from the Tour" and a short list for the player of the decade. He initially stressed that it would not hurt golf if there were not a dominant player in the 1990s, but he said of Olazábal: "He has no fear. He putts so well, he definitely can win majors. He could be the guy." On Ballesteros, Azinger said: "He's 33 but he's a lot older than 33 in the game of golf. He's been playing competitively for so long, and now that he has a wife and family, maybe his motivation isn't going to be there for the next ten years."

It is to be hoped that Ballesteros has only temporarily mislaid his talent, although it would appear that his putter misbehaves more often than it did. If Azinger has a point it is that Ballesteros might be lacking in motivation.

Olazábal, of course, is not, which is why I believe he will be the owner of at least one major championship by the end of the year. If he plays in sufficient events then he could finish No. 1 in the Volvo Order of Merit, for which Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, and the Australians, Mike Harwood and Rodger Davis, will be among his rivals.

Woosnam finished No. 1 in 1990 when he won a record £574,166 and, despite the economic pressures, the Welshman will probably need to set another record to retain his place as the overall prize fund is up £3 million to £19 million. In the main, golf has overcome the recession, which is a reflection on the healthy state of the European game.

The competition for places in the Ryder Cup is evidence enough of the increasing strength in depth of European golf which, I suspect, will be emphasised once more in South Carolina, with Gallacher finally achieving the success which he deserved, but which eluded him as a player.

1991 PGA EUROPEAN TOUR CALENDAR

February: 21-24: Girona Open, Pals, Girona (Barcelona). 28-March 3: Fujitsu Mediterranean Open, L'Esterel Latitudes, St Raphael.

March: 7-10: Open de Baleares, Santa Ponsa. 14-17: Open Catalonia, Bonmont, Tarragona. 21-24: Portuguese Open, Estela, Povoa, near Oporto. 28-31: Volvo Open di Firenze, Ugolino, Florence.

April: 4-7: Open or to be arranged. 11-14: Jersey Open, La Moye, Jersey. 18-21: Benson and Hedges International Open, St Mellion. 25-28: Madrid Open, Puerta de Hierro.

May: 2-5: Credit Lyonnais Cannes Open, Cannes Mougins. 9-12: Peugeot Spanish Open, Club de Campo, Madrid. 16-19: Lancia-Martini Italian Open, Castelconturbia, nr Milan. 24-27: Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth, Surrey. 30-June 2: Dunhill British Masters, Woburn, Bucks.

June: 6-9: Murphy's Cup, Fulford, Yorks. 13-16: Belgian Open, Royal Waterloo, Brussels. 20-23: Carrolls Irish Open, Killarney, Co Kerry. 27-30: Peugeot French Open, National Golf Course, Paris.

July: 3-6: Torras Monte Carlo Open, Mont Agel. 10-13: Bell's Scottish Open, Gleneagles Hotel. 18-21: 120th Open Championship, Royal Birkdale, Lancashire. 25-28: Heineken Dutch Open, Noordwijk, nr Leiden.

August: 1-4: Scandinavian Masters, Drottningholm, Stockholm. 8-11: European Pro-Celebrity, to be arranged. 15-18: NM English Open, The Belfry, nr Birmingham. 22-25: Volvo German Open, Hubbelrath, Düsseldorf. 29-September 1: GA European Open, Walton Heath, Surrey.

September: 5-8: European Masters-Swiss Open, Crans-sur-Sierre. 12-15: Lancome Trophy, St Nom la Breteche, Paris. 16-17: Equity & Law Challenge, Royal Mid-Surrey. 17-19: Tour School pre-qualifying I, to be arranged. 19-22: Epson Grand Prix, St Pierre, Chepstow. 27-29: Ryder Cup, Kiawah Island, South Carolina. 26-29: Austrian Open, Gut Altentann, Salzburg.

October: 3-6: Mercedes German Masters, Stuttgart. 10-13: Dunhill Cup, St Andrews. 10-13: BMW International Open, Munich. 17-20: Toyota World Match Play, Wentworth, Surrey. 23-24: Tour School pre-qualifying II, to be arranged. 24-27: Volvo Masters, Valderrama, Sotogrande. 31-November 3: World Cup of Golf by Philip Morris, La Querce, Rome, Italy.

November: 7-10: Asahi Glass Four Tours Championship, Royal Adelaide, Australia. 7-10: Benson and Hedges Trophy (Mixed Team), Las Brisas. 9-14: PGA European Tour qualifying school, Golf Massanne/La Grande Motte.

December: 19-22: Johnnie Walker World Championship, Tryall, Jamaica.

Olazábal wants title not money

PALS, Spain (PA) — José-Maria Olazábal warmed up for the £250,000 Girona Open, starting at Pals today, and insisted: "I'm not interested in chasing money — I want a major title."

Olazábal, aged 25, of Spain, whose worldwide winnings of $1.6 million last year exceeded those of any other player, starts favourite for the opening tournament of the 1991 European Tour. He is still waiting for his first win in a major tournament.

"I'm not interested in chasing money just for the sake of it," the world No. 3 said. "I can't take it with me when I die. I won five times last year, but I would swap two or three of those for a major title.

"I am playing the first four events on tour because I want my game in a much better state for the US Masters in April than it was last year."

Nor is Olazábal interested in overloading himself with contracts. His only sponsors are Mizuno, the club manufacturer, Lacoste, the clothing firm, and Royal Life, the assurance company. "Greg Norman may have 20 contracts and Nick Faldo may have ten, but three is enough for me. I want to have a private life," he said.

Olazábal's early season problems last year were self-inflicted. He missed two cuts and was disqualified from the Tenerife Open after grounding his club in what was deemed a water hazard. But this week he returns to a course where he has fairly happy memories. The Catalan Open was played at Pals two seasons ago, and Olazábal finished joint second, a shot behind Mark Roe, of Derbyshire.

"The course is not at its best at the moment," Olazabal said. "It's playing long and the greens are not perfect." He does not approve of the change of the 14th from a par five to a 437-yard par four. "There was no need to change — it was better as a par 73," he said.

Olazábal said he had not decided whether to defend his Benson and Hedges title at St Mellion a week after the Masters.

The Girona Open, which is without a sponsor and is being underwritten by the European Tour, has attracted seven of last year's top 20. Ian Woosnam waits until next week and Nick Faldo's tour debut is expected to be the Benson and Hedges. Seve Ballesteros, who last week won £55,000 in a skins tournament in Tenerife (Olazábal took £35,000, Woosnam £12,000 and Sandy Lyle nothing), appears first at the Open de Baleares in Majorca in a fortnight.

CRICKET

Rearguard action by Sri Lankans thwarts English

From Richard Streeton in Colombo

A MEMORABLE recovery led by Dileepa Wickramasinghe deprived England A of victory in the second unofficial Test match here yesterday.

Sri Lanka A led by only 59 runs when their eighth wicket fell just before lunch, but three hours elapsed before another wicket went down. England, therefore, drew a game that they should have won, just as happened in slightly different circumstances in the first Test at Kandy. The third and final match starts tomorrow week.

Wickramasinghe had reached a chanceless 105 not out when the game was given up, with 21 overs left and Sri Lanka 198 for nine.

Wickramasinghe and Chintaka Edirimanne shared a defiant ninth-wicket stand of 120 in 43 overs as the England attack struggled on a pitch which did not deteriorate as expected. It was a remarkable performance by Wickramasinghe, aged 25, who had not previously scored a first-class hundred. He spent the day before in bed with a high temperature after fits of giddiness almost caused him to pass out as he drove to the ground. "In the circumstances this was one of the best hundreds I have seen," Morris, the England captain, said.

Wickramasinghe, who was born in London during a visit there by his parents, came in at No. 6, half an hour after the start.

He attempted little as Sri Lankan wickets fell steadily. He was 13 at lunch, by which time the total had moved to 63 for eight from the overnight 23 for three. After lunch he drove and pulled freely against the three England seam bowlers who had unsettled the other batsmen.

Edirimanne, making his first-class debut, interspersed long periods of defence with occasional firm drives. Aged 22, he also bats No. 10 for his local club, and his lengthy stay was an even more improbable effort than his partner's.

It was understandable that England's bowlers began to lose their edge in the broiling heat. An increasingly soft ball did nothing to help them obtain any bounce. Pick was handicapped by a grazed toe, while the effects of three five-day matches back-to-back, one of them in Australia, seemed to have caught up with Newport.

With Ramprakash unable to bowl because of sore shins, Morris did not have many options. Ilott persevered and Salisbury bowled 20 successive overs, though at times he bowled too flat and did not tempt the batsmen enough. A change of ends was never tried for him.

Shortly before tea Edirimanne offered the only chance either batsmen gave when he was 20 and the total 145. He played forward to Salisbury, and Fairbrother at slip looked slow to respond to a possible catch which landed to his right and in front of him. At tea England's target called for a quicker run rate than anything previously seen in this series.

Fifty minutes later Ilott had Edirimanne leg-before as he started a new spell. Edirimanne hit three fours and faced 145 balls in a show of resolution he can remember with pride.

Wickramansinghe was 98 and was warmly applauded by the England team when he reached his century soon afterwards. It brought him the man-of-the-match award. He batted just under five hours, hit 15 fours and faced 194 balls.

Pick, who finished with eight wickets in the match, made the early inroads England needed in the morning. He had Kalpage caught low down at third slip, and tempted the dangerous Kuruppu into hooking for Salisbury to take another good catch at long leg.

Ilott had Atapattu caught behind off a glove and then yorked Jurangpathy. Wijetunga lofted a catch to mid-off against Salisbury and the tense fightback was underway.

SRI LANKA A: First Innings 409 for 9 dec (D S B P Kuruppu 168, M Atapattu 67, A G D Wickramasinghe 51; R A Pick 4 for 75).

Second Innings

*D S B P Kuruppu c Salisbury b Pick	27
H Premasiri c Rhodes b Ilott	4
†A G D Wickramasinghe lbw b Pick	0
S H U Karnain c Rhodes b Pick	0
R Kalpage c Thorpe b Pick	7
D C Wickramasinghe not out	105
M Attapattu c Rhodes b Ilott	3
B R Juranpathy b Ilott	0
P Wijetunga c Pick b Salisbury	0
C D C Edirimanne lbw b Ilott	28
F S Ahangama not out	10
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 6)	14
Total (9 wkts dec)	198

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-15, 3-22, 4-38, 5-54, 6-56, 7-60, 8-61, 9-181.

BOWLING: Pick 17-1-61-4; Ilott 20-8-42-2; Newport 17-5-44-0; Salisbury 25-10-44-1.

ENGLAND A: First Innings 411 for 9 dec (N Hussain 161, N H Fairbrother 71, G P Thorpe 53; Ahangama 5 for 81).

Umpires: W A U Wickramasinghe and B C Cooray.

Taylor century saves Australian blushes

BASSETERRE, St Kitts (Reuter) — Mark Taylor scored a sparkling 101 but Australia had to hang on for a draw in their opening tour match against the West Indies President's XI yesterday. Set a modest victory target of 247, Australia were in difficulties at 174 for seven but had limped to 204 without further loss when the final over was bowled.

Taylor's departure sparked a mini collapse that swung the match in the hosts' favour. He batted for four hours and struck nine fours but fell attempting to loft Phil Simmons over the infield.

The Australians were 163 for five when Taylor went and they slipped further when Steve Waugh and Mike Veletta were dismissed in the space of 11 runs. Peter Taylor and Merv Hughes, who took five for 36 (four for six runs) in the hosts' second innings total of 147, steered the Australians to safety.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings 332 (K L T Arthurton 93, P V Simmons 71, A H Gray 58; M R Whitney five for 114, M G Hughes four for 90) and 147 (M G Hughes five for 36).

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 233 (S Waugh 96 not out; Patterson four for 62).

Second Innings

G R Marsh b Simmons	9
M A Taylor c Richardson b Simmons	101
D C Boon c Joseph b Haynes	1
*A R Border run out	26
M E Waugh run out	2
S R Waugh c Gray b Haynes	15
†M R J Veletta b Patterson	6
P L Taylor not out	23
M G Hughes not out	10
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 1, nb 4)	11
Total (7 wkts)	204

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-43, 3-102, 4-111, 5-163, 6-163, 7-174.

BOWLING: Patterson 17-4-34-1; Gray 15-2-47-0; Simmons 34-7-57-2; Haynes 20-4-52-2, Arthurton 2-1-3-0, Best 1-0-5-0.

● Eldine Baptiste, the West Indian, is to be banned from playing in the Cornwall Cricket League as part of a clampdown on professionals. The league has voted to ban professionals from next year unless they are also qualified to play for Cornwall and therefore England.

● A delay in plans to build a supermarket complex has allowed Sussex to return to the Central Ground, Hastings, for their opening second XI championship match against Glamorgan on May 1.

Radford is backbone of England

AUCKLAND — After losing most of the first day to rain, England had another frustrating day in the final Under-19 Test match against New Zealand at Eden Park (a Special Correspondent writes). Needing to win to level the series, England, who had begun the day at 19 for no wicket, batted for 93 overs to score 182.

The backbone of their innings was provided by Radford, who scored 79. The pitch had reduced the effectiveness of New Zealand's fast bowlers.

Radford and Warren had resumed England's innings at 19 for nought and had scored 54 before Warren was caught.

A third-wicket stand of 38 between Radford and Smith saw England to 99 for three at lunch, but when Habib was out after the interval the England middle order collapsed.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

T A Radford c Nash b Paul	79
R J Warren c R Hart b Nash	22
*J P Crawley c Paul b Astle	1
B F Smith lbw b Paul	16
Aftab Habib c Fleming b Paul	4
M J Lewrey lbw b Paul	12
S Bartle b Paul	4
G Chapple st R Hart b Stead	19
C J Hawkes b Stead	7
†A D Shaw c Astle b Paul	7
M Broadhurst not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 1, w 3, nb 2)	11
Total	182

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-65, 3-93, 4-101, 5-122, 6-132, 7-158, 8-165, 9-182.

BOWLING: Wilson 10-2-24-0; Brown 10-2-28-0; Nash 9-2-24-1; Astle 12-7-11-1; Paul 27-6-56-6; N Hart 15-8-12-0; Stead 10-3-21-2.

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Innings

S Blackmore not out	18
N Hart not out	26
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 6)	11
Total (no wkts)	55

*L Howell, S Fleming, N Astle, G Stead, D Nash, †R Hart, J Wilson, K Brown, J Paul to bat.

BOWLING: Broadhurst 7-0-15-0; Bartle 2-0-6-0; Chapple 9-3-14-0; Hawkes 6-1-19-0; Lowrey 1-1-0-0.

Matches played 16th February 1991

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Oxford rowing crews fall into line on the Isis

IAN STEWART

Hoping to start with a bump: the men's seventh division of the Oxford Torpids gets under way at Donnington Bridge yesterday

YACHTING

Martin rescued in storm

By Barry Pickthall

JOHN Martin, the former leader of the BOC single-handed round the world race, was forced to take to his liferaft in the Southern Ocean yesterday after his yacht, damaged after hitting an iceberg on Monday, began to sink.

The South African yachtsman, competing in his second BOC circumnavigation, had shored up the damaged hull with a spinnaker pole, but storm-force headwinds led to further cracking and delamination of Allied Bank's composite hull.

Under threat from a hurricane, he alerted his sponsors in Cape Town early yesterday. They relayed his plight to race control in Newport, Rhode Island, where the race began last September. The 18 other skippers were then alerted, and at 08.15 GMT Martin's fellow South African, Bertie Reed, diverted to pick him up midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn.

Martin, wearing a wetsuit, remained on his yacht ready to abandon ship at any time while Reed was directed by amateur radio operators in New Zealand and Massachusetts towards the emergency signals emitted by the satellite transponder on Allied Bank. The rendezvous was made at 13:16GMT, and after taking steps to ensure that his yacht would sink and not remain a hazard to other competitors, Martin made the transfer in his liferaft shortly after daybreak.

Reed told race controllers that Martin was "fine", but that the rescue, which had been undertaken in heavy seas, had been a traumatic experience. He expected Allied Bank to founder within 24 hours.

Reed and Martin plan to sail together around Cape Horn to Punta del Este, Uruguay. Under the race rules Martin must not contribute towards sailing the boat. Reed, however, can expect a generous allowance for the time lost making the rescue.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 14.02 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este, Uruguay): Class 1: 1, Generali Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 2,506; 2, Groupe Sceta (C Auguin, Fr), 2,827; 3, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 2,891; 4, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 2,893; 5, Duracell (M Plant, US), 2,945; 6, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun), 2,984; 7, Jarkan (K Birtles, Aus), 3,173; 8, Ecureuil PC (I Autissier, Fr), 3,187; 9, BBV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 3,200; 10, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 3,269. Class 2: 1, Servant (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 3,307; 2, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 3,608; 3, Buttercup (D McIntyre, Aus), 3,706; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 3,763; 5, Sebago (H Roth, US), 5,241. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 4,025; 2, Shutendohji (M Saito, Japan), 4,125; 3, Global Exposure (R Davie, GB), 4,158.

Pajot given new role

MARC Pajot has emerged triumphant from the internal power struggles of the French America's Cup syndicate (Keith Wheatley writes). However, he has been reassigned a strictly sailing role in contrast to his previous chief executive functions.

New funding worth around £3.2 million has come from the Brittany-based construction group Legris. This family business has an annual turnover of around £450 million and will own 60 per cent of the syndicate shares. Money from the city of Paris, worth around £4 million, is also expected.

Pajot is being sued for defamation and wrongful dismissal by his co-founder of the French Cup effort, and technical director, Eric Ogden. The latter's continuing key role on the payroll of the Yacht Club de France, who are technically responsible for Pajot's challenge, will be troublesome.

Considerable doubts remain as to whether the second French boat can be finished in time for May's Cup class world championships in San Diego. A boatyard source says the hull and deck are completed and surveyed, but no deck fittings or rigging have been acquired, due to the financial turmoil of the past month.

SQUASH RACKETS

Parke reaches his breaking point

By Colin McQuillan

THE Leekes Welsh Classic in Cardiff last season was marked by a series of unexpected results. Within the first hour of this year's event, the upsets were back.

Simon Parke, the junior world champion, was ejected from the first qualifying round 12-15, 15-11, 15-10, 15-12 by Zarak Jahan, the young Pakistani who has been out of the game for the past two seasons with knee injuries.

Even the first round proper yesterday produced a surprise with Tristan Nancarrow, the Australian world No 7, losing 17-15, 15-6, 15-7, to England's Philip Whitlock, ranked only 17th nationally and 24th in the world.

Parke's 60 minute exit was all too reminiscent of last year's emotions. In serious trouble against Jahan's new shot filled approach to a game at which he once excelled through gymnastic ability but is now inhibited by an orthopaedic brace on his left knee, the junior world champion became so infuriated by an adverse refereeing decision in the fourth game that he smashed his racket on the floor.

Having dropped a point for racket abuse, he then found there was no spare in his bag and had to beg a two minute break to reach his other rackets in the boot of his car. He made it back to court with just 15 seconds to spare, then lost as Jahan began to hit nicks on either hand with increasing confidence.

The effort was costly to the out of practice Pakistani, however. He went down 12-15, 15-9, 13-15, 15-7, 15-13 in the qualifying final to Stephen Meads.

RESULTS: First round: C Dittmar (Aus) bt A Adarraga (Aus), 15-8, 15-11, 15-13; B Martin (Aus) bt A Schreiber (Aus), 15-2, 17-14, 15-13; R Eyles (Aus) bt A Hill (Aus), 15-11, 15-11, 15-2; M Maclean (Scot) bt S Butt (Can), 15-7, 15-4, 15-8; S Beeson (Eng) bt R Watt (NZ), 15-12, 16-17, 15-6, 15-8; S Hellstone (SA) bt P Kenyon (Eng), 11-15, 15-14, 14-15, 15-7, 15-8; P Whitlock (Eng) bt T Nancarrow (Aus) 17-15, 15-6, 15-7; C Robertson (Aus) bt S Meads (Eng), 15-7, 15-8, 15-8.

Oriel recover on the opening day

By a Special Correspondent

ORIEL, relegated four places for defying a no-rowing ban last week, made up a place on the opening day of the Oxford University Torpids on the Isis yesterday.

They closed to within a canvas of New College at the Gut and made their bump along the Green Bank.

Christ Church comfortably rowed over, but there was a change at the top of the women's first division, where Somerville caught Osler House near the finish.

● Nottinghamshire clubs play host to 150 crews from around the country on Sunday for the calendar's biggest event outside London, the Mainway Head of the Trent race.

The three-and-a-half mile race along the River Trent through Nottingham, is the last big event for crews building up to the Head of the Thames competition next month.

Unusually, Oxford and Cambridge universities have not entered this year. One of the home clubs, Notts County Rowing Association, is chasing its ninth victory, with another, Nottingham Union Rowing Club, a leading challenger.

YESTERDAY'S BUMPS

Men

FIRST DIVISION: Oriel bpd New College; University bpd St Catherine's; Pembroke bpd Magdalen.

SECOND DIVISION: Worcester bpd Trinity; Lady Margaret Hall bpd Worcester; St John's bpd Jesus; Merton bpd Exeter.

THIRD DIVISION: Christ Church II bpd New College II; St Anne's bpd St Catherine's II; Osler House bpd St Catherine's II; Brasenose II bpd Oriel III; Mansfield bpd Hertford II; Lincoln II bpd Worcester II.

FOURTH DIVISION: Balliol II bpd Keble II; Pembroke II bpd Wolfson II; Queen's II bpd Exeter II; St John's II bpd Worcester III; Linacre bpd Worcester III.

FIFTH DIVISION: Wadham II bpd Jesus II; Lady Margaret Hall II bpd Jesus II; Oriel IV bpd Queen's III; St Hugh's bpd Hertford III; New College III bpd Hertford III; Regent's Park bpd Keble III; Oriel V bpd Trinity II.

SIXTH DIVISION: Exeter III bpd St John's III; Christchurch III bpd University III; Brasenose III bpd University III; Wolfson III bpd New College IV.

SEVENTH DIVISION: Oriel VI bpd St Hugh's II; Wolfson III bpd Oriel IV; St Edmund Hall III bpd Balliol III; Merton II bpd Balliol IV; St Hugh's III bpd Balliol IV; Worcester IV bpd Balliol IV; Lady Margaret Hall III bpd Balliol IV; Osler House II bpd Worcester IV.

Women

FIRST DIVISION: Somerville bpd Osler House; Wadham bpd University; New College bpd University; Brasenose bpd University.

SECOND DIVISION: Trinity bpd Christ Church; Lincoln bpd Christ Church; Hertford bpd Somerville; Balliol bpd Somerville; St John's bpd Somerville; St Edmund Hall bpd Somerville; St Hugh's II bpd Somerville; Jesus bpd Somerville.

THIRD DIVISION: New College II bpd Corpus Christi; Exeter bpd Corpus Christi; Oriel bpd Exeter; Wadham II bpd Osler House II; Magdalen bpd Osler House II; Magdalen bpd Osler House II; Magdalen bpd Wadham II; Linacre bpd Hertford II; Merton bpd Hertford II.

FOURTH DIVISION: Merton bpd St Hugh's III; St Hilda's II bpd Mansfield; Magdalen II bpd Mansfield; St Hilda's III bpd Mansfield; Exeter II bpd Mansfield; Oriel II bpd Mansfield; Lady Margaret Hall II bpd Magdalen II; St Anne's II bpd Exeter II; Christchurch II bpd St Catherine's II.

FIFTH DIVISION: St John's II bpd Jesus II; Pembroke bpd Jesus II; Regent's Park bpd Jesus II; Brasenose II bpd Jesus II; St Edmund Hall II bpd Jesus II; Oriel III bpd Jesus II; St Peter's II bpd Jesus II; Christ Church III bpd St Edmund Hall II; Oriel IV bpd Pembroke III.

Today's starting order

Men

FIRST DIVISION: Christ Church, Brasenose, Oriel, New College, Oriel II, Hertford, Balliol, University, St Catherine's, Pembroke, Magdalen, St Edmund Hall.

SECOND DIVISION: Keble, Lincoln, Lady Margaret Hall, Worcester, Trinity, Wolfson, St John's, Jesus, St Peter's, Wadham, Queen's, Merton.

THIRD DIVISION: Exeter, University II, Christ Church II, New College II, St Anne's, Osler House, St Catherine's II, Brasenose II, Oriel III, Mansfield, Hertford II, Lincoln II.

FOURTH DIVISION: Worcester II, Corpus Christi, Balliol II, Keble II, Pembroke II, Wolfson II, St Edmund Hall II, Queen's II, Exeter II, St John's II, Linacre, Worcester III.

FIFTH DIVISION: Wadham II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Jesus II, Oriel IV, Jesus III, Queen's III, St Hugh's, New College III, Hertford III, Regent's Park, Keble III, Magdalen II, Oriel V.

SIXTH DIVISION: Trinity III, St Anne's II, Exeter III, St John's III, St Peter's II, Lincoln III, Corpus Christi II, Christ Church III, Brasenose III, University III, Templeton, Wolfson III.

SEVENTH DIVISION: New College IV, Oriel VI, St Hugh's II, St Edmund Hall III, Balliol III, Merton II, St Hugh's III, Osler House II, Worcester IV, Lady Margaret Hall III, Balliol IV, Christ Church IV, St Hugh's IV.

Women

FIRST DIVISION: Somerville, Osler House, Lady Margaret Hall, St Catherine's, St Hugh's, Wadham, New College, Brasenose, University, Wolfson, Pembroke, Keble.

SECOND DIVISION: St Anne's, Worcester, St Hilda's, Trinity, Lincoln, Christ Church, Hertford, Balliol, St John's, St Edmund Hall, St Hugh's II, Jesus.

THIRD DIVISION: Somerville II, St Peter's, New College II, Oriel, Exeter, Corpus Christi, Wadham II, Queen's, Magdalen, Osler House II, Linacre, Merton.

FOURTH DIVISION: Hertford II, St Hugh's II, St Hilda's II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Magdalen II, St Hilda's III, St Anne's II, Exeter II, Oriel II, Mansfield, Lady Margaret Hall III, Christ Church II.

FIFTH DIVISION: St Catherine's II, St John's II, Pembroke II, Regent's Park, Brasenose II, St Edmund Hall II, Christ Church II, Oriel III, St Peter's II, Jesus II, Oriel IV, University II, Pembroke III.

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FOOTBALL

A club that shares may lose out on Trust aid

By Clive White

WIMBLEDON'S hopes of sharing Queen's Park Rangers' Loftus Road ground, to which Hammersmith and Fulham council has voiced objections, received a further setback yesterday when the Football Trust pointed out that it was unlikely that both clubs would qualify for ground improvement aid in such a situation.

Rangers were still under the impression yesterday that if an agreement was reached between the clubs, Wimbledon would be able to contribute £1 million — the first division maximum grant under Trust rules — towards bringing Loftus Road up to the requirements laid down by the Taylor Report. It seemed to be a prime consideration in negotiations between the clubs but Richard Falkner, the deputy chairman of the Trust, said it was unlikely that it would "double up" on aid.

"If two clubs were to ground-share at a new stadium the rule of thumb that we would apply is that we would calculate what each club was entitled to in their own right and add those two together and conceivably a bit more on top," Falkner said.

"In the case of simply ground-sharing, unless it was a long-term change, I think we would take the view that the host club would get the grant to which it was entitled in the normal course of events but I don't think we would double up in those circumstances."

Wimbledon were one of three or four clubs to approach Rangers in the past six to 12 months with a view to ground-sharing, according to Clive Berlin, the chief executive of Rangers. "The advantage of ground-sharing to us is that the grant to the club which is coming over here would come with them," he said.

There would also be a substantial saving to Rangers in other areas such as rates, insurance and heating costs, all of which would be halved. Berlin stressed that, contrary to reports, the two clubs would not be merging and neither would Rangers be selling any stake in their own ground.

The Trust is due to visit Loftus Road shortly to examine the all-seat requirements, as outlined by Lord Justice Taylor. The cost of turning Loftus Road into a 20,000 all-seat stadium is unlikely to be vast since it already has 14,500 seats.

It is the council's objections to the 18-month tenancy proposed by Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon club's owner, which provides the greater obstacle. "I would have thought the council have got a problem in saying 'no'," Berlin said. "Everybody is pressurising, from the government downwards, that ground-sharing could be a way forward."

The council, which was fundamentally against ground-sharing, has objected on environmental grounds, such as parking and public safety, which it believes would weigh heavily against any scheme taking off.

Wimbledon are desperate to find a new home since it is not economically viable to refurbish their own antiquated Plough Lane ground. Hammam proposes to sell it for redevelopment and in the long term has dreams of building "an architectural masterpiece that people will cross the world to see".

A site at Beddington Lane, Croydon, which is owned by Thames Water Authority, presents the possibility of realising such a dream, maybe with Fulham as a co-tenant. But when Hammam recently met Basam Farha, a Lebanese like himself, who has the option on the site, Farha stormed out after half an hour over a disagreement.

Cup defeat preys on Wednesday

By Louise Taylor

CONFRONTED by the like-minded, pretty-passing opponents on a reasonable pitch, Sheffield Wednesday might have been expected to banish the ghosts of their humiliating FA Cup exit, on Saturday at Cambridge, against Swindon Town at the County Ground on Tuesday night.

Instead they fell 2-1 in their first League defeat since November 10, but stay third in the second division. Their confidence needs mending before the Rumbelows Cup semi-final against Chelsea on Sunday.

Swindon stay mid-table due to Fitzroy Simpson, a gifted forward, who in the 75th minute dodged three defenders before chipping Chris Turner from the edge of the area.

Five minutes later Swindon equalised through Hirst, but moments after Simpson, crossing from the left, allowed Steve Foley to restore the deserved Swindon advantage.

Four points behind Wednesday, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday overtook Notts County to occupy fourth place in the table, courtesy of a 3-2 win against West Bromwich Albion at Ayresome Park. A bizarre 87th-minute own goal from Mel Rees, the West Brom goalkeeper, sent the Teesside supporters home happy.

Rees was reported to police after supporters claimed he had thrown an apple back into the crowd, but will not not face an FA enquiry or police action.

Southend United, the third division leaders, were surprisingly defeated 2-1 at home by Reading. Michael Gilkes, the Reading winger, broke a leg and will miss the rest of the season.

Two more promotion candidates met at Bury, where a penalty from David Lee ensured the 1-0 win that lifted the home side above Leyton Orient.

Darlington are top of the fourth division following a 2-0 win at Aldershot.

Tea and biscuits replace Sherry and showbiz

JAMES GRAY

Cold shoulder: Eubank, left, the strong, silent type, and Sherry, the challenger, who is garrulous by comparison

Eubank gives hype the boot

By Srikumar Sen
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank, of Brighton, had journalists wishing yesterday that Nigel Benn was still the World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion. Benn's verbal aggression was sorely missed as boxing writers struggled to extract a quotable quote from the champion at a press conference in London.

Instead of saying lots of marvellous things about his first defence against Dan Sherry, of Canada, at Brighton on Saturday, Eubank decided to play the strong, silent type and give hype the boot. Other champions might make boastful claims and insult opponents, to sell tickets, but not Eubank. He had not come to praise Sherry or to bury him.

The champion, who likes "deep questions", gave the impression of giving deep answers to shallow questions by interspersing his replies with long, introspective pauses.

"He's an opponent and I'll have to deal with him," Eubank said. "I shall react to the way he acts. If Dan Sherry is a good fighter, I shall beat him and look good. If he is terrible, I shall beat him and look terrible. If he is excellent, I shall beat him and look excellent." In short, Eubank prefers to let his fists do the talking.

If he had his way, all boxing conferences would be low-key tea-and-biscuit affairs. Sherry, who is 24 and armed with a disarming Kevin Costner smile, remained suitably deferential towards such an unusual champion and kept calling him Mister.

"I have been deliberately kept in the background, just waiting for the right opportunity," Sherry said. "I think I know Mr Eubank already like a good friend. I've seen all his tapes. I really feel it's going to be what I make of it." Sherry's trainer, Pepe Correa, added: "Hopefully, Mr Eubank will stick out his chin."

Sherry started boxing at the age of 16. As a member of the talented 1986 Canadian Commonwealth Games team, he won a gold medal in Edinburgh, and as a professional he has a 17-0 record. After the Games, he had wanted to go to university to study architecture or English literature but was advised by his father to go professional.

Sherry, who is managed by Sugar Ray Leonard, was discovered by the world champion when the Canadian was training with Shawn O'Sullivan, Leonard's other Canadian signing. Sherry also helped Leonard prepare for the world title bout with Marvin Hagler.

CCPR backs Clarke attack

By John Goodbody

THE Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, yesterday gave some support to the government criticisms of its own working party on the future of physical education and sport in state schools.

The CCPR backed Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, in his attack on the report's use of jargon and his desire to see the subject as one primarily concerned with activity.

Nigel Hook, the senior technical officer for the CCPR, said: "Asking children to jump, hop and throw by the age of seven is fairly easy. Some of these targets could be more rigorous. Some of the award schemes of the national governing bodies would be more challenging, and interesting, for children."

However, Hook welcomed the recommendation that children should be able to swim 25 metres and have water safety skills by the age of 11. This is a key proposal of the working party, chaired by Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow. Clarke has stressed to the working party what issues he wants tackled when the final report on the national curriculum is published in June.

Hook also criticised the government for evading the issue on how much PE time should be allocated in the curriculum, which under the 1988 Act it is specifically proscribed from doing. The governing bodies think that pupils of all ages should have a minimum of two hours a week in school time.

Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde and Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party sports committee, described Clarke's comments as a "pathetic, poor and piecemeal response to a major contribution to our children's educational development".

HOCKEY

Ramu lightens the way to victory

By Sydney Friskin

UAU XI 3
British Colleges 0

UNIVERSITIES Athletic Union, who had lost in the last two years to British Colleges, took charge in the second half to win comfortably at Brunel University, Uxbridge, yesterday.

UAU gained much from the skills of the Malaysian international, Shankar Ramu.

Poor finishing was British Colleges problem. In the early minutes both Faithful and Register broke clear, only to shoot straight at the goalkeeper.

A minute before the interval UAU snatched the lead, Tucker and Bloor combining well for Webster to score a well taken goal. After the interval, with Ramu coming more into prominence, the UAU raised their game and Dicken increased their lead with a fierce hit from a short corner: Five minutes before the end Ramu unwound a dazzling piece of stickwork and Bloor scored the third.

UAU XI: S Fitch (Newcastle; sub: J Barrow, Reading); I Morrison (Reading, captain), G Dicken (Manchester), A Litchfield (Birmingham), S Janes (Sheffield), C Bloor (Birmingham), M Tucker (Birmingham), Shankar Ramu (Keele), C Swinerd (Kent), R Webster (Southampton, sub: L Troy, Sheffield), N Land (Sheffield, sub M Renisen, Manchester).
BRITISH COLLEGES: I Martin (West London); A Wilkinson (West London), J Shand (West London), N Potter (St Mary's), A Zanin (St Mary's, captain), G Norton (West London), M Register (West London), M Colclough (St Mary's), W Smith (West London), M Faithful (West London), D Spencer (St Mary's).
Umpires: S Wilkins (Southern Counties) and P Davison (Southern Counties).

● Exeter meet Bristol in the final of the Commercial Union UAU championship at Reading on March 6. Yesterday Exeter beat Loughborough, 2-1 and Bristol beat Durham 2-1.

SNOOKER

Johnson is back on form

By Steve Acteson

JOE Johnson, who has been a bit part player since winning the 1986 world championship, last night reached the fourth round of the Pearl Assurance British Open in Derby. He defeated Chris Cookson — in his first season as a professional — 5-3, with breaks of 70, 65, 59, and 81.

Johnson said: "It was great to win the world championship. I wouldn't change a thing, but the following season I became a celebrity instead of a professional player. I'm just delighted to be playing well again."

Jon Birch scratched from his third round match yesterday against Neal Foulds because of appendicitis.

John Virgo, the world No. 14, blamed his 5-3 defeat by Stephen Murphy, ranked 97, on the table pockets being "too easy", which turns it into "a potter's game and that makes it a bit of a lottery."

There is no play today.

RESULTS: Third round: J Johnson (Eng) bt C Cookson (Eng), 5-3, M Clark (Eng) bt I Graham (Eng), 5-2, E Charlton (Aus) bt S Campbell (Eng), 5-4. **Tuesday's late results:** M Hallett (Eng) bt M Price (Eng), 5-4, A Jones (Eng) bt W Jones (Wales), 5-3, G Wilkinson (Eng) bt J Campbell (Aus), 5-2, W King (Aus) bt S James (Eng), 5-3.

RUGBY UNION

Cardiff squeeze into final with Davies's late try

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Univ Coll Cardiff 13
Loughborough University 10

CARDIFF went heartbreakingly close to the final of the Commercial Union Universities Athletic Union championships a year ago; yesterday, amid the moist and misty confines of Cinderford, they reached the final for the first time since 1961 (when they won the championship) by beating Loughborough, the holders, whose last defeat in this competition was four years ago.

If Lloyd Davies, their full back, was the individual hero by scoring all their points in victory by a try and three penalty goals to a try and two penalties, it was the Welsh pack which claimed the honours and carried them through to a final against Swansea at Twickenham on March 20.

Despite fighting a rearguard battle at the set pieces, Cardiff's zest in the loose never faltered. Nor where they worried that Loughborough led until, in the third minute of injury time, Barrington sent his full back through on the short side for the try which secured revenge for the happenings of a year ago.

In last season's semi-final only a mistake in the final minute by Cardiff permitted Loughborough to force extra time. Loughborough went on to win 13-10 and subsequently beat Swansea in the final.

Loughborough had three survivors from that match, whereas Cardiff had five, including Price, at stand-off half, whose kicking out of hand was considerably better than anything Loughborough managed. So was the goal-kicking of Davies, who converted three of five penalty chances while Malone missed three of four.

Loughborough must have wondered whether a 10-3 half-time advantage would be enough on a slippery surface facing a strong wind. They scored a neat try when Dossett chipped through for Wisehart, before Malone and Dossett registered two penalties.

The holders' backs, however, were all fingers and thumbs and lacked the control that Price offered Cardiff.

Davies kept Cardiff in the game with his penalties and looked to have scored a try with ten minutes remaining. On that occasion he was held on the line, but could not be denied the winning try. In group matches earlier this season Swansea beat Cardiff 14-6, but Twickenham, for two Welsh teams, will be something entirely different.

SCORERS: University College, Cardiff: Try: L Davies. Penalty goals: L Davies (3). **Loughborough University:** Try: Wisehart. Penalty goals: Malone, Dossett.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF: L Davies; G John (rep: B Johnson), K Noble, J Reed, A Davies; K Price, R Barrington; C Coates, M Patton, L Britton, D Duly, J Evans, P Thresher, R Pask, G Davies.
LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY: C Dossett; M Wisehart, S Johnson, J Irving, M Nicholson; N Malone, P Miles; M Ireland, R Taylor, N Lowton, J Overall, A Millward, D Jones, N Richardson, E Peters.
Referee: A Reay (Bristol).

Swansea thrive on experience

By Michael Austin

Swansea University 17
Exeter University 15

SWANSEA survived a rigorous examination from the talented and unified Exeter back row at the Memorial Ground, Bristol, yesterday to galvanize their hopes of a first outright UAU title win for 52 years.

Swansea qualified despite being behind twice in a fraught match. Exeter thrived on the game's outstanding player, Barrow, but Swansea prospered on their extra experience.

Fielding seven players who have appeared at first-class level, including Adebayo, the England B wing, Swansea struggled to offset Exeter's commitment and had severe goal-kicking problems. Mynott missed four of six place-kicks, none from over-ambitious positions.

Exeter swept ahead with a sixth-minute try by Davis from a 65-yard move, featuring Rowlands. It was converted by Willett. The Exeter back row caused consternation for Swansea, whose scrummaging advantage earned a lead after 36 minutes which they did not relinquish.

Exeter, under front-row pressure from Buckett, collapsed a scrum and conceded a penalty try, which was duly converted. The finest tries followed in a three-minute period when Hudson ran infield powerfully and crashed over at the post for Exeter before Mynott swept over for Swansea from a flowing threequarter move.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Jones, Mynott, penalty try. Conversion: Mynott. Penalty goal: Mynott. **Exeter University:** Tries: Davis, Hudson. Conversions: Willett (2). Penalty goal: Willis.
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY: R Jones; P Hopkins, A Adebayo (rep: J Powell), P Flood, R Mynott; J Ball, R Howley; I Buckett, R Tandy, C Clarke, N Scurlock, N Bissett, J Lewis, L Walters, C Ritchie.
EXETER UNIVERSITY: J Boyd; J Hudson, A Jones, I Muir, M Davis; D Willett, R James; P Morris, D Lewis, S Hood, D Rowlands, J Marshall, K McCarthy, G Evans, C Barrow.
Referee: M Edwards (Warwickshire).

Dominant St Mary's brush Guy's aside

By Peter Bills

St Mary's 15
Guy's 0

ST MARY'S, the winners of the Hospitals' Cup for 11 of the last 13 years, again reached the final with a comprehensive victory over Guy's at Old Deer Park, Richmond. They now meet the winners of the semi-final between University College and London next week.

Guy's, who have not won the trophy for 20 years, but they fought manfully to stretch the holders before a typically boisterous crowd. A stretcher was needed after half-time, not for a player, but for a girl who fell off a railing and knocked herself unconscious. She was taken to hospital.

On the field, Mary's superior forward strength was eventually decisive. Guy's restricted them to a single try before the interval, scored by Kelly after 20 minutes from a pick-up at the base of a scrum.

The bulky Ellery forced his way over from a rolling maul eight minutes after half-time and Butland kicked a penalty and added a late try. Guy's poor control of the ball undermined the sterling efforts of their smaller, lighter forwards.

SCORERS: St Mary's: Tries: Kelly, Ellery, Butland. Penalty goal: Butland.
ST MARY'S HOSPITAL: T Poole; D Abrams, R Wintle, A Field, C Boos; R Butland, C Wright; A Ellery, L O'Hara, N Hunt, J Torkington, P Tooz-Hobson, P Mitchell, C Langrish, S Kelly.
GUY'S HOSPITAL: M Rose; R Breeze, J Worth, S Lewis, S Bunting; N Davies, R Docker; G Tsolakides, B Stanhope, M Sears, W Llewellyn, P Davis, C Beardmore, R Cunnington (rep: A Skyrme), R Llewellyn.
Referee: D Moffett (New South Wales).

IN BRIEF

Bouvier crashes

FURANO, Japan (AFP) — Nathalie Bouvier, the French downhill skier, broke both legs yesterday when she crashed in practice here.

Bouvier, aged 21, who was second at the world championships last month, was rushed to the Asahikawa Medical College hospital, where a contusion of the brain was also suspected, a spokesman for the organisers of the World Cup race said.

TENNIS: In an attempt to keep the US Open championships in New York, the US Tennis Association and the mayor, David Dinkins, have proposed expanding the 17-acre Flushing Meadow site to 31 acres, and building three stadiums and 15 outdoor field courts.

ATHLETICS: Mick Hill, of Leeds, the world No. 6 javelin thrower last year, is hopeful he can still get fit for the summer after undergoing an operation on an injured knee.

MOTOR RACING: After test driving his new Ilmor-powered machine at Silverstone yesterday, Ivan Capelli, of Italy, said he thought Leyton House had "made a big step forward" with the Formula One car.

JUDO: Kerrith Brown, who lost his bronze medal after a positive drugs test at the Seoul Olympics, will seek world championship selection as a light-middleweight at the Scottish Open championships this weekend.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The London Monarchs yesterday named John Witkowski as their quarterback in the World League.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Charity shield makes tracks to Gateshead

By Keith Macklin

THE international stadium at Gateshead has been chosen to host the CIS Insurance Charity Shield on Sunday, August 25, in the continuing expansion plans of the game.

The charity shield is being used as a promotional vehicle, and last year it was played at Swansea City football club. David Howes, the league public affairs executive, said the game would be a catalyst for development in the north east, with a club based in Gateshead on the horizon.

The game at Swansea attracted a crowd of 11,000 in pouring rain at the Vetch Field, with the two leading clubs, Wigan and Widnes, competing as Challenge Cup and Premiership winners respectively.

Second division clubs anxious to make a pioneering trip to the Soviet Union in May will now jostle for the remaining places. Ryedale York and one other club will play matches in Moscow and Kazakhstan. Leigh, has pulled out because of its dire financial situation.

It has been revealed that professional rugby league in the Soviet Union will start in May, with eight clubs from Moscow, Leningrad, Kazakhstan and the Volga basin.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Revised second round draw: February 23: Barrow v Widnes; Keighley v Warrington; Workington v Oldham; Rochdale v Wigan; Sheffield v Salford; Bradford v Leeds; Halifax v Whitehaven. February 24: St Helens v Wakefield.

● Barry Seabourne has resigned as the coach of Huddersfield, of second division. Seabourne complained about the players' "lack of effort" and is replaced by the assistant coaches, Mick Blacker and Francis Jarvis. Peter Seabourne, Barry's son, on loan from Bradford Northern, last night played for Huddersfield.

EQUESTRIANISM

Hickstead stands by

DOUGLAS Bunn, the owner of the All England jumping course at Hickstead, Sussex, said yesterday that he would be prepared to stage the Royal International Horse Show, Britain's oldest horse show, at Hickstead, if it is forced to move from the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, because of lack of sponsorship (Jenny MacArthur writes).

The organising committee of the show has until the end of the week to find the shortfall of £130,000 needed to run the event at Birmingham from June 13 to 16.

Bunn said yesterday: "If the British Horse Society ask me to stage it we could be up and running in a week."

ATHLETICS

McColgan is ready to take her place

By David Powell

LIZ McColgan is hoping to run in the world cross-country championships within four months of giving birth to her first child. McColgan, aged 26, has bypassed the championships since 1987, when she finished second, and her inclusion would install Britain as team gold medal contenders.

She has notified the selectors of her wishes. Her inclusion in the team, to be named on Sunday, should be a formality. "I had a call from Peter [Liz's husband] saying she had been running extremely well and wanted to considered." Les Jones, a selector, said yesterday.

McColgan gave birth to a daughter on November 25. The championships, in Antwerp, are on March 24. On nine weeks training, and in 82 per cent humidity after a 100-mile training week, she recorded 33min 28sec for 10 kilometres on the road in Fort Lauderdale on February 2. That suggested that, another seven weeks on to the world championships, she could be in top-ten shape.

After the English women's national championship last Saturday, the British selectors appeared to have a straightforward task in choosing their six for Antwerp: Andrea Wallace, Sonia McGeorge, Andrea Whitcombe, Alison Wyeth, Sally Ellis and Lisa York. It is still straightforward but at the expense of York. York has had a good season, but it seems her efforts will be good enough only for reserve place.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

STOCKHOLM: Indoor meeting: Winners: Men: 60m: H McTear (US), 6.65sec. 60m hurdles: J Pierce (US), 7.68. 200m: D Mitchell (US), 21.63. 400m: M Johnson (US), 46.29. 800m: W Tanui (Ken), 1min 49.06sec. 1,500m: N Morceli (Alg), 3:37.96. 3,000m: M Rowland (GB), 7:54.90. High jump: D Topic (Yug), 2.34 metres. Pole vault: R Gataullin (USSR), 5.77. Triple jump: V Inozemtsev (USSR), 17.58. Women: 60m: K Krabbe (Ger), 7.22sec. 400m: A Protti (Switz), 52.43. 800m: A Molloy (Ire), 2min 04.04sec. 1,500m: Y van der Kolk (Neth), 4:10.76.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana Pacers 115, Charlotte Hornets 102; New Jersey Nets 97, Sacramento Kings 83; Atlanta Hawks 110, New York Knicks 102; Philadelphia 76ers 107, Seattle SuperSonics 104 (OT); Boston Celtics 105, Phoenix Suns 109; Chicago Bulls 118, Washington Bullets 113; Los Angeles Lakers 112, Houston Rockets 103; Milwaukee Bucks 116, Miami Heat 90; Portland Trail Blazers 107, Dallas Mavericks 100.

FOOTBALL

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final: Second leg: Sampdoria 1, Turin 0 (aggregate score 1-1 aet: Sampdoria win 3-2 on penalties).
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group six: Portugal 2, Malta 0 (in Malta).
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Argentina 2, Hungary 0 (in Rosario).
Late results on Tuesday
BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Second division: Middlesbrough 3, West Bromwich Albion 2; Swindon 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1. Third division: Bury 1, Leyton Orient 0; Shrewsbury 0, Huddersfield 0; Southend 1, Reading 2. Fourth division: Aldershot 0, Darlington 2; Scarborough 1, Cardiff 2; Walsall 0, Lincoln 0.
LEYLAND DAF CUP: First round: Mansfield 2, Fulham 1; Torquay 2, Northampton 0. Northern area semi-finals: Preston 6, Burnley 1; Wigan 0, Tranmere 3.
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stafford 2, Wycombe 1. Postponed: Bath v Slough.
B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: St Johnstone 0, Dundee United 1; St Mirren 2, Dunfermline 2. Postponed: Motherwell v Aberdeen. First division: Raith 1, Brechin 0. Postponed: Partick v Clyde. Second division: Alloa 1, Stenhousemuir 1; East Fife 4, Berwick 1. Postponed: East Stirling v Stirling Albion.
FA VASE: Fifth round: Postponed: Saffron Walden v Buckingham Town. Fifth round replays: Bridlington 0, Great Harwood 1; Hythe 3, Hasting Town 1.
FA TROPHY: Second round: Merthyr 1, Gloucester 3.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final: First leg: Bangor City 3, Witton 0.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Larchimage Windows Cup: Semi-finals: First leg: Tamworth 2, Chelmsford 1.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 0, Coventry 1; Manchester City 2, Everton 0. Second division: Bradford 1, Oldham 1. Postponed: Burnley v York.
OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Arsenal 1, Millwall 0; Chelsea 4, West Ham 3; Watford 0, Tottenham 1. Postponed: Charlton v Southampton; Portsmouth v Brighton.
IRISH LEAGUE: Roadferry Cup: Quarter-finals: Bangor 3, RUC 0; Glentoran 4, Distillery 0.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Coleraine 2, Newry 4.
BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth round replay: Crusaders 3, Cliftonville 2.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clevedon 4, Frome 0; Paulton 5, Chippenham 1. First division: Westbury 1, Devizes 1.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Harwich 0, Braintree 3; Tiptree 1, Haverhill 1.
WEEKLY WYNNER LEAGUE CUP: Ossett Town 3, Harrogate Railway 1.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Wimbledon 2, Chelsea 0.
VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Cup: Kingstonian 0, Dagenham 1 (aet); Leyton-Wingate 1, Woking 0; Tooting and Mitcham 1, Redbridge Forest 8; Staines 2, Walthamstow 5. Loctite Trophy: Finchley 0, Horsham 2; Flackwell Heath 0, Newbury Town 0 (aet); Harefield 0, Hampton 1; Hungerford 0, Malden Vale 0. First division: Bromley 0, Dorking 3; Uxbridge 0, Dulwich Hamlet 3. Second division north: Rainham 1, Purfleet 1. Second division south: Southall 2, Banstead 1.
CAPITAL FINANCE SOUTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Bournemouth 4, Hereford 0.
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: France 0, Spain 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo Sabres 6, Pittsburgh Penguins 3; St Louis Blues 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; Calgary Flames 4, Detroit Red Wings 4 (OT).
HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Panthers 9, Cardiff Devils 9.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Combined Services championships: Doubles: M Nicholls and J Edwardes bt R Broke and K Faith, 15-3, 15-6, 15-9; A Harrison and D Paton bt O Morris-Adams and W Pym, 15-7, 15-6, 15-12.

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Combined Services championships: Singles: Third round: D Reed-Felstead bt O Morris-Adams, 10-8; R Broke bt A Harrison, 11-9; T Breitmeyer bt C Wright, 11-8; B Aitken bt W Pym, 11-6. Doubles: G de Lotbiniere and H Akerman bt P Watts and P Watts, 9-8; A Myrtle and D Vaughan bt W Entwhistle and J de Halpert, 13-9.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCH: Stockport GS 32, King Edward's, Camp Hill Birmingham 4.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Metropolitan Police 10, Army 21.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUP CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Rochdale 14, Chorley 10.
SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Challenge Cup: First round: St Helens 28, Halifax 10; Warrington 28, Leigh 16.

SQUASH RACKETS

CARDIFF: Welsh Classic: First round: C Robertson (Aus) bt S Meads (Eng), 15-7, 15-8, 15-6; P Whitlock (Eng) bt T Nancarrow (Aus), 17-16, 15-8, 15-7; S Hailstone (Scot) bt P Kenyon (Eng), 11-15, 15-14, 14-15, 15-7, 15-8; M Maclean (Scot) bt S Butt (Can), 15-7, 15-4, 15-8; B Beeson (Eng) bt R Watt (NZ), 15-12, 16-17, 15-5, 15-8; R Eyles (Aus) bt A Hill (Aus), 15-11, 15-11, 15-2; B Martin (Aus) bt A Schreiber (Aus), 15-2, 17-14, 15-13; C Dittmar (Aus) bt A Adarraga (Sp), 15-8, 15-11, 15-13.

TENNIS

STUTTGART: Men's indoor tournament: First round: J Siemerink (Neth) bt H Skoff (Austria), 6-1, 6-0; K Novacek (Cz) bt J Arrese (Sp), 7-6, 6-4; J Hlasek (Switz) bt S Zivojinovic (Yug), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; G Forget (Fr) bt J Aguilera (Sp), 6-2, 6-3; A Cherkasov (USSR) bt P Kuehnen (Ger), 5-7, 6-2, 7-6; C Bergstrom (Swe) bt J Gunnarsson (Swe), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Second round: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt A Chesnokov (USSR), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
MEMPHIS: Men's tournament: First round: G Connell (Can) bt S Davis (US), 6-2, 7-6; T Mayotte (US) bt P Lundgren (Monaco), 6-3, 6-4; G Muller (SA) bt J Arias (US), 6-7, 7-5, 6-4; W Ferreira (SA) bt L Herrera (Mex), 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; M Wilander (Swe) bt M Ondruska (SA), 7-5, 5-7, 6-2. Second round: C Caratti (It) bt G Raoux (Fr), 7-5, 7-6; W Masur (Aus) bt D Goldie (US), 6-7, 7-5, 6-2; M Koevermans (Neth) bt G Bloom (Isr), 6-3, 6-4; D Cahill (Aus) bt B Garrow (US), 6-4, 6-2; D Rostagno (US) bt M Kratzmann (Aus), 7-6, 7-5; M Chang (US) bt J-P Fleurian (Fr), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.
OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament: First round: C Suire (Fr) bt S Rehe (US), 2-6, 6-1, 6-0; L Bonder-Kreiss (US) bt R White (US), 7-5, 6-3; C Lindqvist (Swe) bt G Fernandez (US), 6-2, 6-3; A Gavaldon (Mex) bt A May (US), 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; A Smith (US) bt P Fendick (US), 6-1, 7-6; M Bollegraf (Neth) bt R Stubbs (Aus), 6-1, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt C Cunningham (US), 7-6, 6-3; R Baranski (US) bt L Allen (US), 4-6, 6-4, 3-2, ret; H Cioffi (US) bt P Shriver (US), 6-1, 6-3.
CROYDON: LTA women's satellite tournament: Quarter-finals: D Wamelink (Neth) bt C Wuillot (Bel), 6-1, 6-0; S de Vries (Neth) bt L Bacheva (Bul), 6-0, 6-3; E Callens (Bel) bt A Marchi (Ger), 7-6, 6-2; S Gomer (Devon) bt V Lake (Devon), 6-1, 6-1.
EASTBOURNE: LTA satellite tournament: First round: M Petchey (Essex) bt D Wells-Roth (US), 4-6, 7-5, 7-6; S Mezzadri (It) bt S Moine (It), 6-2, 6-3; N Bruno (It) bt D Harris (Essex), 3-6, 6-3, 7-6; D Sapsford (Surrey) bt C Brandi (It), 7-5, 7-6; G Schaap (Neth) bt R Ward (US), 6-4, 6-2; N Fulwood (Derbyshire) bt P Virtanen (Fin), 6-3, 6-4; L Bale (SA) bt L Matthews (Hampshire), 6-2, 7-5; B Joelson (US) bt S Cole (Surrey), 0-6, 6-3, 6-1.

CRESTA RUN

GEORGES PRADE CUP: 1, J Ludescher (Cz), 1min 58.04sec; 2, J Prade (Fr), 1:58.08; 3, S Riegger (Ger), 1:51.65. British placing: 7, R Sheppard, 1:52.28.

FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Leyland Daf Cup
First round
Brentford v Wrexham (7.45)

FA VASE: Fifth round: Saffron Walden v Buckingham.
VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Loctite Cup: Second round replays: Boreham Wood v Lewes; Marlow v Hitchin. Loctite Trophy: Third round: Cove v Purfleet. AC Delco Cup: Fourth round: Carshalton v Harlow; Molesey v Woking.
OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Millwall v Arsenal (7.0). Postponed: Chelsea v Fulham.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield United v Leicester City. Second division: Middlesborough v Blackpool.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Second division: Keighley v Batley.

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THE TIMES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 1991

SPORT

Crossan returns to establish record for Irish

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

KEITH Crossan will become Ireland's most-capped rugby union wing when he plays against England at Lansdowne Road on March 2. He was one of two changes announced yesterday from the XV which drew 21-21 with Wales in Cardiff last weekend, to secure Ireland's first point of the five nations' championship.

Crossan, aged 31, will overtake the tally of 34 caps established by his fellow Ulsterman, Trevor Ringland. He displaces Jack Clarke, a debutant on the left wing against the Welsh, and is joined in the side by Neil Francis, the Blackrock College lock. Francis will make his ninth international appearance at the expense of Mick Galwey (Shannon); both Galwey and Clarke must be content to do duty in a powerful B XV, containing ten capped players, against England on March 1.

Ireland's selectors will have made changes only reluctantly for the match against England, particularly at forward, where they held their own against both France and Wales. But the desire for extra height at the lineout has brought in Francis (6ft 6in) for Galwey (6ft 4in), in the knowledge of the problems he caused England at Twickenham last season; to be fair, Francis was an original selection against France earlier this month and withdrew only because of a virus.

He was replaced by Brian Rigney, who holds his position, but the selectors will pray that what they win on the lineout they do not lose in the scrummaging; Galwey, who broke his nose against Wales, and Rigney were particularly sound in that respect against France.

Crossan's return was widely anticipated, once he had shown he had recovered from a fractured fibula sustained in a club match in November. He made his 34th appearance against Argentina in October, but Ken Hooks, of Bangor, played against France before the call-up of Clarke; moreover since Ireland's policy of running the ball against Wales paid off so well Crossan's speed and experience will be a great bonus.

There will have been some debate about the goal-kicking in Cardiff but, as Rob Saunders, the young captain, observed after the match, Ireland chose a back division to run the ball and scored four tries by doing so. Would they have done so with Michael Kiernan, the country's record points scorer, in midfield? Instead Kiernan is another who appears in the B international at Donnybrook, in what is an out-and-out second XV rather than a development side — though the selectors would contend that playing promising players such as Colin Wilkinson and David Hernan in such experienced company must assist their progress.

Michael Bradley, who has won 23 caps, will captain the side from scrum half, with a back division of whom Wilkinson and Hernan are the only two uncapped players, though both appeared in the B XV which beat Scotland 16-0 in December. Of the forwards only O'Riordan, McCarthy and Fitzgibbon have not been capped, against an English team which includes five senior players, four in the pack.

IRELAND: J E Staples (London Irish); S P Geoghegan (London Irish), D M Curtis (London Irish), B J Mullin (Blackrock College), K D Crossan (Instonians); B A Smith (Leicester), R Saunders (London Irish, captain); J J Fitzgerald (Young Munster), S J Smith (Ballymena), D C Fitzgerald (Lansdowne), P M Matthews (Wanderers), B J Rigney (Greystones), N P Francis (Blackrock College), G F Hamilton (NIFC), B F Robinson (Ballymena). Replacements: K J Murphy (Constitution), V J G Cunningham (St Mary's College), A C Rolland (Blackrock College), N P Mannion (Lansdowne), G F Halpin (Wanderers), T J Kingston (Dolphin).

IRELAND B: C Wilkinson (Malone); D Hernan (University College, Dublin), P Danaher (Garryowen), M Kiernan (Dolphin), J Clarke (Dolphin); R Keyes (Constitution), M Bradley (Constitution, captain); N Popplewell (Greystones), J O'Riordan (Constitution), P McCarthy (Constitution), M Fitzgibbon (Shannon), M Galwey (Shannon), P Johns (Dublin University), P O'Hara (Sunday's Well), P Lawlor (Bective Rangers). Replacements: C Haly (London Irish), N Barry (Garryowen), G Aherne (Lansdowne), A Blair (Old Wesley), P Soden (Constitution), A Adair (Instonians).

IRB raises hopes of South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter) — South Africa's hopes of hosting the 1995 rugby union World Cup were raised yesterday by Ken Smith, president of the International Rugby Board (IRB).

Smith said on arriving here that South Africa's application would be "favourably considered." He said that he hoped his visit would accelerate efforts to unite the country's rival controlling bodies, the "establishment" South African Rugby Board (Sarb) and the anti-apartheid South African Rugby Union (Saru).

"I hope the negotiations between the Sarb and the Saru will be completed as soon as possible so that South Africa can take its rightful place in the international rugby arena," he said.

Unity is the key pre-condition of the world sporting community before it will agree to lift the anti-apartheid sporting boycott which has isolated the country for years.

Smith, a Scot, is in South Africa to attend a farewell function on Friday for Fritz Eloff, a former IRB president.

● Orrell, the North's only remaining representatives in the Pilkington Cup, will not confirm their side to play Wasps in Saturday's quarter-final tie until the morning of the match (David Hands writes). They will travel south with a squad of 18 and view the playing surface before deciding their XV, though the only query is surely whether to play Paul Manley, an out-and-out open-side flanker.

They are able to restore Nigel Heslop, their England wing, to the side though there may be a slight doubt over Dave Cleary in their back row — hence the addition of Manley. Wasps are at strength, with four internationals in their back division and three in the pack.

Two more capped players, Chris Oti and Steve Bates, make returns after long-standing injuries in the second XV match against Bath United the same day. The bad weather has operated against Bates, the scrum half who might otherwise have challenged for the place in the cup side, while Oti, the wing, has been feeling his way gradually back to fitness after a leg injury.

Harlequins, the 1988 cup winners, have chosen the side that beat Gloucester in the last round against Rosslyn Park. Richard Langhorn, at No. 8, is the only uncapped player in the pack.

Parting of the ways follows a tearful triumph

Becker splits with his coach

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent

THREE weeks after winning the Australian Open and becoming world No. 1 for the first time, Boris Becker has split with his coach, Bob Brett. Ion Tiriac, Becker's manager, said at the Stuttgart Classic yesterday that the parting of the ways had been mutual and amicable.

"The contract came to an end and we all sat down and decided not to renew it," Tiriac said. "They were together for three-and-a-half years, which is a very long time, and they have had a great run, but it was time for a change."

The relationship between Brett and Becker, which was always based more on professional respect than personal friendship, had cooled considerably in recent months. But the timing of the split is poignant.

At the Australian Open at the end of last month, the normally unemotional Brett had been reduced to tears by the scale of Becker's dual triumph, achieved in his home town of Melbourne. The feeling then was that the victory would paper over the cracks as Becker tried to consolidate his No. 1 ranking. In fact, it sealed the end of the partnership. "I think both felt that was the best time to part," Tiriac said.

Since he left his first coach, Gunther Bosch, and came under Brett's stern guidance, Becker has won three grand slam titles — Wimbledon, the United States and Australian Opens. "Brett is a very good coach and will no doubt find another job very soon," Tiriac said. The Australian has reportedly been hired by the Yugoslav, Goran Ivanisevic, who beat Becker in the first round at the French Open but lost to him in the semi-final at Wimbledon.

Ivanisevic recently split with his coach, Balazs Taroczy, and needs discipline. The same could be said of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which would be interested in the services of the Australian, who was responsible for a revival in John Lloyd's career before he went to Becker and has been considered by the LTA before.

Becker's plans are rather more mysterious. "It is possible that he does not need a full-time coach, but someone who will work with him for the grand slams, someone who knows tennis well and can change little things here and there," Tiriac said. "I will have some suggestions, but the final decision will be Boris's. He is 25 now; he should know what he wants." One name already in the frame is that of Nikki Pilic, the German Davis Cup captain.

He will have plenty of time to ponder his future. After pulling out of his semi-final against Andrei Cherkasov in Brussels last week with a recurrence of a thigh injury, Becker, who lost his top ranking to Edberg again last week, has withdrawn from the tournaments here and in Indian Wells early next month.

He is also doubtful for the Lipton International in Key Biscayne in a month's time and might not reappear until the start of the clay court season in Monte Carlo on April 22.

● Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors will play an exhibition in London, the promoter, Patrick Malynn, insisted yesterday, despite announcements to the contrary by Borg's agents at the International Management Group (IMG).

"It's perfectly straightforward," Malynn said. "He is doing an exhibition tour and I have the London date. I have the documents to say he is playing."

"Borg asked us to put together an exhibition tour in April, then he changed his mind and decided he wanted to stay and practise on clay," Bob Cane, of IMG, said. "The promoter might have jumped the gun a little."

Borg's plans include matches in Oslo, London, Dublin and Milan before his scheduled return to the tour at Monte Carlo. "I have a written commitment from Connors," the tour promoter, Kal Ross, said. "I have been told Bjorn will play, though I am waiting for written confirmation from him. If it doesn't happen now, we will make it later in the year."

When the sun shone on a partnership: Becker, left, and his coach in amiable mood in Frankfurt two years ago

Sapsford breaks the pain barrier

DANNY Sapsford, the British Davis Cup player and No. 2 seed, who has been dogged by back and elbow injuries, yesterday took two hours and 12 minutes to defeat Christian Brandi, of Italy, 7-5, 7-6, in the first round of the Serve and Volley men's satellite tournament at Eastbourne.

Sapsford, who was recently named the British No. 3, said: "I came through a long match without pain. He was a very difficult opponent but I was pleased with the way I played."

One break, in the eleventh game, earned the Surrey player the first set but he had to come back from 0-3 in the second before fighting back to a tight 8-6 tie-break.

An even tighter match saw Mark Petchey, the British No. 5 from Essex, beat David Wells-Roth, of the United States, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6. Petchey did well to come back from 0-3 down in the final set and romp through the deciding tie-break game by 7-3.

Sara Gomer overwhelmed Valda Lake, 6-1, 6-1, to reach the semi-finals of the LTA women's satellite tournament in Croydon. Gomer, the No. 1 seed, out-ran and outwitted her opponent, who is 372 places lower on the women's computer, to take the tie in one hour 20 minutes.

Lake, aged 22, is continuing her tournament comeback at Croydon after retiring from the full-time game in 1989.

Gomer plays Seda De Vries, of The Netherlands, in the semi-finals today.

Results, page 33

Sky loses competition ruling

By Peter Guilford
in Strasbourg
and Melinda Wittstock

THE European Commission yesterday outlawed an agreement between Sky Television and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which provided Eurosport, their shared satellite channel, with exclusive rights to broadcast important sporting events.

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, said Eurosport in its present shape was illegal under EC fair competition rules, violating Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. With the full backing of his Brussels colleagues, he condemned Eurosport after analysing a complaint lodged over three years ago by Screensport, a rival satellite channel owned by W. H. Smith Television. He said that the agreement between Sky and the EBU enabled them to cooperate where they should be competing, while at the same time denying access to sports programmes for other satellite or cable services.

An EC statement said: "The effect of these agreements was to limit and distort free competition. This decision will ensure a level playing field between broadcasters of sports events in the European transnational satellite television sector."

Sports footage was being supplied to Eurosport by almost half of the stations in the EBU, which groups together some of Europe's biggest national television networks, including the BBC.

Eurosport yesterday refused to reveal how much of its sports footage came from EBU members, although a Sky spokesman said it could vary widely from month to month. Sky said Eurosport bought a wide range of sporting programme rights on the "open market", but said there was no set quota.

The ruling has immediate effect and its implementation will allow Screensport and other satellite channels to compete on an equal basis for the rights to European events.

Sky Television, which has been in talks recently to sell its 50 per cent share of Eurosport, said it was too early to make a statement. The company's lawyers were studying the implications of the ruling.

A spokesman for Sir Leon said the EC Commissioner objected so strongly to the very structure of Eurosport that it was hard to conceive of it being modified. "It must be disbanded in its present form, and there is no obvious way to modify it," he said. The admission of Screensport into the Eurosport consortium would not be enough, serving only to strengthen the venture's monopoly over the market.

The commission also attacked the pricing structure of Eurosport, saying its members had an unfair competitive edge over potential market entrants by avoiding transmission costs through the Eurovision network.

Brussels stressed that it was not banning the 39-member EBU itself, although the allegedly exclusive nature of the EBU is the subject of separate EC anti-trust investigations.

The EBU and Sky can appeal within two months.

Cardiff City face court action from council

By Louise Taylor

A SQUABBLE between Cardiff city council and Tony Clemo, the chairman of the city's football team, threatens to end with the club being wound up in the High Court.

The club, which is buying Ninian Park from the council, has failed to meet a mortgage instalment of £13,000 due last September, and the councillors, who have the backing of South Glamorgan county council, are acting on their entitlement to call in the entire outstanding loan of £257,000.

Yesterday, the city council announced that it had gone to the High Court to gain a winding-up order to close the company running the club and re-possess Ninian Park.

It is expected that it will take three to four weeks for the matter to be resolved by the High Court; in the interim, the city council is likely to attempt to reach an out-of-court settlement under which it would abandon the legal action in exchange for involvement in the day-to-day running of Cardiff City.

However, there is no danger of Cardiff failing to fulfill this season's fourth division fixtures. Both the city and county councils have previously pledged to provide public money to keep the club alive until a new owner is found.

Wimbledon grounded, page 33

Sun.

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Second test clears skater

By John Hennessy

A SECOND laboratory test has cleared the skater, Marina Klimova, of the Soviet Union, of using illegal drugs during the European ice dance championship at Sofia last month. She will retain the gold medal she won there with her husband, Sergei Ponomarenko, and is free to defend the world title in Munich.

An original test, taken immediately after the free dance in Sofia, had been declared positive. A second, more sophisticated test this week from the same urine sample has contradicted the Sofia finding.

Beat Häsler, secretary of the International Skating Union (ISU), said yesterday: "The result of the B analysis [the second] did not confirm the A analysis." He explained that the first urine sample had pointed to the use of anabolic steroids because the ratio between testosterone and epitestosterone in Klimova's body had been found to be above the six-to-one limit set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The corroborative test had been carried out at a Cologne laboratory certified by the IOC.

Hasler added that the Bulgarians had made a "huge mistake because there was simply no comparison between the two measurements". He could not say how the mistake had occurred, but speculated that it might have been due to the use of unclean equipment.

The ISU had been irritated by the unauthorised leak of the result of the first test in Sofia. Now that that reading had been shown to be false, its anger will be more deeply felt.

The development will come as a great relief to Klimova, aged 24, and her partner, six years older. Had the second test confirmed the first, Klimova would have been automatically suspended for two years, preventing them from winning their third world title in Munich next month, and their first Olympic title, in Albertville, France, next year.

The free dance of Klimova and Ponomarenko at Sofia, choreographed to the score from David Lean's film, *Lawrence of Arabia*, had been the most physically demanding of their eight-year career together, they said afterwards.

Finesse triumphs over force

By David Rhys Jones

RICHARD Corsie, a laconic Scot, beat Robbie Parrella, an extrovert Italian-born Australian, in straight sets yesterday and qualified for the semi-finals of the Midland Bank world indoor bowls singles championship. It was a popular result with the spectators at the Preston Guild Hall.

Nobody denies that Parrella is talented: he is, after all, the Commonwealth Games champion. He is also one of the most interesting personalities at Preston: born in Parma, he played bocca before bowls and, after qualifying as a hairdresser, turned to driving, and now has a taxi firm in Brisbane.

It is his driving on the bowling green, though, that has infuriated people. He hurls heavy density plastic spheroids down the rink with venomous accuracy, and has been known, down under, to smash a jack or two.

Yesterday, you could detect hostility in the corporate murmurings when the big gun was produced — and extra satisfaction in the applause when Corsie's fine art survived Parrella's barbarism. Some people, it seems, think firing is unfair.

Corsie is not one of them: he is well known as one of the most fearsome firers in the British game; he, too, has smashed jacks. But, against Parrella, the most weight he ever put behind a bowl was when he played for position at the back of the head.

It was a triumph for finesse over force. Corsie's discipline carried the day, Parrella's strike rate was disappointing, and it was, fittingly, an off-target drive from the Australian that left Corsie with the winning shot. The Scot seems the only player, apart from Tony Allcock, to have drawn a map of the portable rink, and remembered every contour. The two are lined up to meet in Sunday's final.

Allcock was in inspirational mood as he skipped David Bryant, with whom he has won the pairs title four times in five attempts, to a straight set win over Jeff McMullan and David Corkill, of Ireland.

RESULTS: Singles: Quarter-final: R Corsie (Scot) bt R Parrella (Aus), 7-1, 7-0, 7-4. Pairs: Second round: D J Bryant and A Allcock (Eng) bt J McMullan and D Corkill (Ire), 7-4, 7-1, 7-2.

C 2 ******

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